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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk June 28, 2015

East edition No 666



SPORT

Australia arrive

Ahead of the Ashes series, tourists clash with Kent

TRAVEL

Minister's vow on Stack chaos

Exclusive on how to solve lorry dilemma

EVENTS

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Organisers to retire after next month's event

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County's crossroads are reason for contemplation

OUR county has lots of recurring themes; those issues which return each and every year yet rarely seem to actually reach a conclusion.

And inside this week's edition we touch upon some real classics. But, once again, the solutions seem so desperately hard to reach.

First up is Operation Stack. We all know it's a problem, we all know it causes traffic chaos. But the alternatives seem to be simply concreting over huge parts of countryside to create lorry parks. A big sacrifice for a problem which may only take place a few days a year.

Then there is the issue of a third lower Thames crossing. It is news to no-one that the existing Dartford Crossing is one of the most congested stretches of roads in the country. Yet to build a new one will, again, mean an awful lot of serious construction and a huge cost to the public purse. What's more, as our population continues to expand will the resulting increase in the number of cars simply mean we just end up with another busy, congested road?

Moving on, we then have the local dilemmas such as the Tunbridge Wells cinema saga and the on-going row as to whether public money should be used to solve a private enterprise failure.

And on our Agenda page there's more on Manston Airport - a site which has seen so much money invested with so little return, yet which still commands a very vocal chorus of support who continue to be convinced it is the key to Thanet's economic prosperity.

All sides of all arguments are pretty compelling and set to be with us for a while yet.

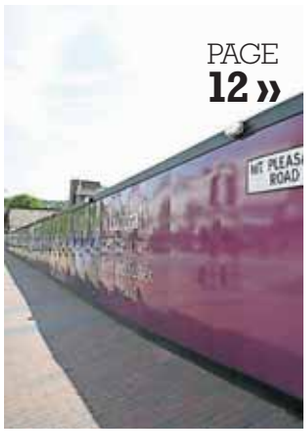
Read our regular reports and come to your own conclusion.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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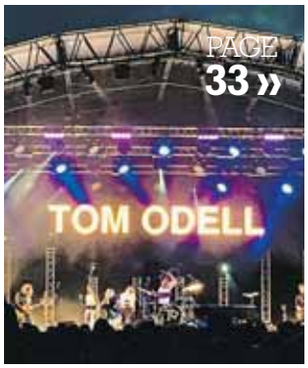












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HOW TO CONTACT US...
Publisher: Simon Irwin
Email simon.irwin@archant.co.uk
Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address: Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP
Editorial: News: 01233 653475
Sport/Leisure: 01233 653479
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Jobs/Notices: 01233 653461
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Minister 'determined' to solve the Stack dilemma

By Maria Chiorando
maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk



STACK: The M20 was once again turned into a lorry park as freight queued to get to the ports

TRANSPORT minister Andrew Jones says the government are "determined to do whatever possible" to solve the problem of Operation Stack after another chaotic week on the county's roads.

Writing in an exclusive article for our website, www.kentnews.co.uk, the Conservative minister said the aim was to stop Kent bearing the brunt of any problem at the Channel ports.

He said: "Following the implementation of Operation Stack for the first time this year in January, Kent County Council, Kent Police, Highways England, national freight associations and others formed a task force to find better options. Those options will include proposals to mitigate the worst effects of Operation Stack, or to prevent it from having to be implemented in the first place.

"The task force is due to deliver a report to ministers soon. We look forward to receiving that report, and although we know there are no easy answers, we are determined to do whatever possible to help keep Kent's roads free from disruption."

Protesting French ferry workers blocked the Port of Calais on Tuesday as part of industrial action over the closure of the MyFerryLink operation.

It stopped all Dover to Calais crossings. The problem was then exacerbated when they blockaded Eurotunnel and damaged tracks which forced the cancellation of all services by Le Shuttle and Eurostar.

With lorries heading to the Continent left with no way to cross, they started backing up out of Dover, forcing Kent Police to execute phase two of Operation Stack - turning the stretch of coastbound M20 between Maidstone and Ashford into a giant lorry park. It, in turn, forced all other vehicles onto other roads, causing congestion across much of east Kent.

Ashford Tory MP Damian Green added; "I think the realistic option is a series of smaller lorry parks around the county rather than one big one, which is unacceptable wherever you put it.

"Ever time Stack is implemented, it reminds us of the urgency. This conversation needs to reach a conclusion - and quickly."

To read the full article by Andrew Jones, and all the latest news all week long, see our website www.kentnews.co.uk.

Let's take legal action against striking French workers, says Tory MP

AN MP has demanded the UK considers taking legal action against striking French workers following this week's disarray.

Angry Folkestone MP Damian Collins says he is sick of Kent bearing the brunt of employment disputes on the other side of the Channel.

He said: "The strikes have not only caused huge backlogs, that have disrupted roads across Kent and beyond, but the tunnel has been broken into and the tracks damaged.

"It begs the question as to whether we should be considering legal action against the strikers, and their unions.

"It cannot be right that a strike at the Port of Calais can lead to the closure of Eurostar services, and disruption across our area.

"This should never have been allowed to happen. Moreover, the chaos has caused long queues for lorry drivers in Northern France, which in turn has provided opportunities for illegal immigrants to attempt to board them in the hope of entering the country."

Amid remarkable scenes, migrants camped in Calais took advantage of backed-up HGVs in Calais to flood the roads in a bid to stow away on board and gain illegal access to the UK - once again igniting the debate over just who should be responsible for security in Calais.

The industrial action was resolved when rival firm DFDS, which had already agreed to lease two of the firm's ferries when MyFerryLink ceases trading next month, agreed to take over the former co-operative and thus save hundreds of jobs.

Kent, however, paid a high price for the latest protest across the Channel.

However, the UK government has been careful to not pour fuel on the flames this week, saying only that it is working closely with the French government over security at Calais and that it seeks to find a solution to Operation Stack.

Northern Lights blow after Met Office gives false hope

HOPES of catching a rare glimpse of the aurora borealis – better known as the Northern Lights – were dashed on Wednesday night.

The Met Office had said those in the north of the county may get to see the spectacular light show shortly after sunset.

But while there were sightings in other, more northerly parts of the country, Kent drew a blank.

Adam Leach, chairman of the South East Kent Astronomical Society, said: ''There was a lot of cloud, which would have affected visibility. You are more likely to see the lights with a camera, rather than with the naked eye - it is easier to capture on long exposure photos. But if you are in a dark area, you can potentially pick up a sighting there.''

Grandson steals £34k from own grandmother's account

A 29-year-old man who stole more than £30,000 from his grandmother as she recovered in hospital after a fall, has been jailed for 20 months.

Daniel Westbury, formerly of Keyes Avenue, Chatham, appeared at Maidstone Crown Court after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing.

His grandmother had entrusted Westbury with her bank card and PIN to ensure she didn't miss bill payments after a fall just before Christmas 2013.

But Westbury and partner Tracey Hallam, 30, transferred £34,000 to his bank account, redecorated their house and bought a new television. They even bought Hallam's sister a car.

Tracey Hallam was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment, suspended for two years.

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Stories which made the headlines **@kentnews.co.uk** during the past week

Heatwave forecast as temperatures set to soar

THE Met Office says we could be set to swelter in a heatwave next week with forecasters predicting temperatures could reach the mid-30s Celsius.

And that would mean we could see the hottest days of the year so far. The Met Office says we will see "a real change in the way it feels" and says there are set to be "hot days and humid nights, especially across the south".

A spokesman said: "Highs across southern Britain are likely to reach the low 30s Celsius with a small chance of values in the mid 30s here."

However, they added: "It's worth saying that there is some uncertainty about how much of the hot weather will reach us, and it may only last a couple of days. And it may end with thunderstorms."

Cops: Throw things off road bridges and you could be thrown in jail

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

POLICE have warned anyone hurling objects from road bridges could face time behind bars after a spate of incidents across the county.

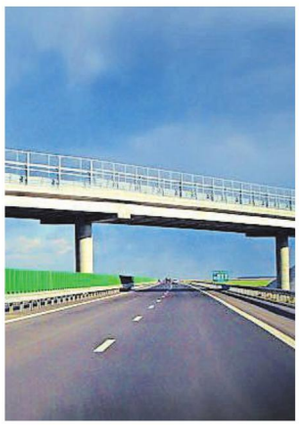
In particular, there have been incidents along the M20 motorway.

Since January 2015, there have been 15 reported incidents of objects being thrown off bridges between junctions four and five of the M20 and from crossings over the A228 at Snodland and East Peckham.

Signs have been fixed to bridges which cross parts of the motorway in west Kent, warning offenders they could face up to seven years in prison and fines of £1,000.

Notices have also been secured to crossings above the A228.

Tonbridge Chief Insp Gill Ellis said: "I cannot stress enough how dangerous it is to throw objects from bridges. Throwing anything at a moving vehicle is incredibly stupid and also malicious.



DANGER: Motorists put at risk

"It could easily kill someone, especially if they are travelling at high speeds on a major road.

"Fortunately reports of this nature are still rare, but those who commit such crimes will face serious repercussions. We also want motorists to be aware that incidents such as this are occurring and to remain vigilant."

In July 2010, a 47-year-old man died following a collision involving a lorry and a pick-up truck on the A20 Swanley interchange, after it was reported that stones had been thrown at the lorry.

Currently, as officers continue efforts to reduce incidents, CCTV cameras have also been installed to monitor locations.

Chief Insp Ellis added: "We will be monitoring the cameras and will arrest anyone we find carrying out these malicious acts. Visible patrols have been increased in vulnerable areas, which will be making regular checks for any suspicious behaviour.

"We are also working in partnership with local schools to inform and educate pupils of the dangers and penalties.

"I would urge parents to also ensure their children know the dangers and consequences of throwing objects onto the highway."



HIGH: Stepplejacks take to the skies

Listed obelisk undergoes major repairs

REPAIRS of a Grade II-listed monument in a village near Ashford have been taking place this week, with steeplejacks clambering up the 52ft obelisk.

The Bilsington Monument, built in 1835 to celebrate the life of local landowner and philanthropist Sir William Richard Cosway.

But over the years it has been battered by the weather and even struck by lightning.

Now, thanks to a spate of donations, specialists will restore the historical obelisk to its former glory.

Trustee of the independent charitable trust, the Bilsington Monument Trust, Robert Boutwood, said: "These kind donations have allowed for the work to go ahead and we are extremely grateful to all those who have supported the project and by doing so help to protect our local heritage."

Western Steeplejacks, which specialise in renovation work to historical and ancient buildings, has been commissioned to carry out the repair works.

And those visiting the site, which overlooks the village cricket ground, will have seen the team of three experts scaling the tall and difficult structure by using ladders and ropes.

By this method, they avoid the need for expensive scaffolding.

Latest Fifty Shades sells 1m in first week

THERE appears to be no let-up in our desire for Christian Grey, after book sales of the latest instalment of the Fifty Shades of Grey accelerated past one million in its first week.

The books are written by EL James – real name Erika Mitchell – who spent many years studying at the University of Kent in Canterbury, before going on to pen the global erotic success story.

The latest book, called simply Grey, retells the story of the original book – which has already spawned two sequels – but told through the eyes of troubled billionaire Christian Grey.

In total, the series has already sold more than 125 million copies worldwide, catapulting EL James to millionaire status..

However, the book has been slammed by critics. Nick Clark of the Independent described the book at "drawn out, racy, frequently painful and unintentionally hilarious.

The Telegraph said it was "written with the personality of a blow-up doll".

Janice Atkinson told to resign as our MEP

PRESSURE has been piled on former Ukip MEP Janice Atkinson to resign after she confirmed she had entered into a coalition with extreme French right-winter Marine Le Pen.

Ms Atkinson, who was expelled from Ukip, has joined a right-wing group in the European Parliament which includes Le Pen's French National Front. Green MEP Keith Taylor described the group as a platform for "Europe's worst racists and homophobes".

Now Liberal Democrat MEP Catherine Bearder says the time has come for Ms Atkinson, who now serves as an independent after being kicked out of Ukip following allegations over expenses, to step down.

She said: "Ms Atkinson disgraced herself on more than one occasion in the campaign. It seems she has now joined a newly formed far-right group. This is bad news for voters and bad news for the south east and Janice should do the honourable thing if she cannot continue as a Ukip MEP and step down."

KoS attempted to contact Ms Atkinson this week to get her response but she failed to return our calls.

MP delight as airline tackles noisy engines

TUNBRIDGE Wells MP Greg Clark has claimed a victory in the fight against aircraft noise after the chief executive of British Airways wrote to him to confirm it will be cutting its air pollution.

Keith Williams, has pledged to modify older Airbus A320 planes which produce a particularly disturbing high-pitched whining noise.

The company has been in touch with the Conservative MP to say that they will all be upgraded within two years.

Mr Clark, who is also secretary of state for communities and local government, said: "Aircraft noise is of great concern to many local residents that live beneath the Gatwick flightpath so this is a really big step forward.

"Older Airbus A320 planes make a particular high-pitched whining noise and the problem can easily be sorted out by retrofitting the planes with a simple piece of kit. Unfortunately up until now all British airline operators have refused to do so. I must commend British Airways for taking action."

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War & Peace show to end this year as organisers set to retire

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

ORGANISERS of one of the county's biggest annual events this week announced its 2015 outing will be its last.

The War and Peace Revival show is due to take place at Folkestone Racecourse at the end of July – its new home after decades at Paddock Wood's Hop Farm.

But organisers say they intend to retire and draw the final curtain on an event which regularly attracts tens of thousand of military fans.

However, they hinted it could continue – if someone came forward to take over the reins.

Rex Cadman and Barbara Shea have run the hugely popular show for 27 of its last 33 years. Mr Cadman said: "Barbara and I have organised War and Peace for 27 years this year and she is ready to retire, so we decided that as we started this journey together, after much thought we would end it together.

"We're very proud to have grown the show from a small club event with about 100 vehicles, to the world's largest military show, seeing over 4,000 vehicles and 100,000 people. A great many other military vehicle shows have War and Peace as their parentage, having grown out of our event.



CROWDS: Good weather saw huge crowds for the popular event at Folkestone

"We were the first show to invite Second World War veterans for free nearly 20 years ago, and have had the privilege of meeting true heroes, no matter what they achieved.

"Sadly their numbers are dwindling quite considerably and we're losing an incredible generation.

"We've had an amazing time, but sadly all good things must come to an end. The 2015 War and Peace Revival will be our last show – it may also be the last War and Peace ever unless someone, or a group, comes forward to take it on."

War and Peace evolved from the annual Invicta Military Vehicle Preservation Society club event back in 1982 at Tenterden train station, which moved to the former Whitbread Hop Farm at Paddock Wood in 1987. The War and Peace Show was then based at the Hop Farm for 25 years, before relaunching as The War and Peace Revival at Folkestone Racecourse in 2013.

This year's event runs from July 22 to 26. Tickets are available now.

Meet the cat living at busy railway station

AN eight-year-old cat has moved into its new home – Tonbridge railway station; one of the busiest commuter stops in the county.

The cat, named Sapphie, is believed to have been left homeless after her owners moved away.

A hit with staff and commuters alike, there's even been a short film made about her (view it on www.kentnews.co.uk). Ticket office worker Steve Davies said: ''She goes wherever she likes.''

Pensioner killed after her car hit by lorry

A 74-year-old was killed and her passenger left in a serious condition in a London hospital, after the car she was travelling in smashed into a lorry on the A2070 near Ashford on Wednesday.

Their car collided with an articulated lorry travelling in the Hastings direction at around 4.10pm. The HGV driver was left unhurt.

Historic hotel is sold

TUNBRIDGE Wells' historic Hotel du Vin has been sold as part of a multi-million takeover.

The Grade II-listed hotel, next to Calverley Park and once frequented by a young Queen Victoria, was part of the Malmaison Hotel du Vin group which was sold for £363m by US venture capital firm KSL Capital Partners to Frasers Hospitality.

KSL had owned the group for just two years.



agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Rolling Stones plaque sparks Wyman anger

DARTFORD council will this week start planning to remove a plaque put up at the town's railway station to celebrate the formation of the Rolling Stones.

It will be replaced after former Stones band member Bill Wyman said it was inaccurate and fumed on a radio show about it.

The plaque reads "Mick Jagger and Keith Richards met on platform 2 on 17 October 1961 and went on to form the Rolling Stones – one of the most successful rock bands of all time".

But former bassist Mr Wyman, who quit the group in 1993, says the band was actually created by



the late guitarist Brian Jones.

Jeremy Kite, leader of Dartford Borough Council, says the authority will "put it right" and have the plaque removed and reworded.

Pressure grows on plans for Manston Airport site

SUPPORTERS of Manston Airport will continue to put pressure on council chiefs to pursue a compulsory purchase order (CPO)on the stricken site, following the publication on Thursday of the latest government report.

Compiled by consultancy firm PriceWatershouseCoopers, it does not offer an opinion on the CPO, but it does say TDC did not do enough to make a decision on the financial viability of RiverOak – the American investment company that wanted to team up with the council as an indemnity party.

Council chiefs will continue to discuss the report this week.

...also

Bid for broadband boost

BUSINESSES across the county can apply this week for grants of up to £3,000 to get better broadband.

The scheme, funded by government and administered by KCC, covers the costs of upgrading the connection.

Dane Valley Woods vote

DANE Valley Woods in Margate is holding its AGM on Monday, electing a steering group and reporting back on its finances.

The meeting, which is open to all, is at Taddy's Barn on George Hill Road at 6.30pm.

Parade in county town

MORE than 600 people will take part in next Saturday's Maidstone Parade through the streets of the county town.

A string of events have been lined up. The parade starts at 2.30pm at County Hall and ending in Brenchley Gardens.

Celebrate our meadows

NATIONAL Meadows Day is launched next Saturday, with Ranscombe Farm nature reserve in Cuxton welcoming TV presenter Mike Dilger to its special event running from 11am to 3pm.

It highlights their importance and decline.

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Victims apply political pressure on MPs in bid to finally get justice

In the latest move in the campaign to get suitable compensation, sufferers take battle to politicians

the investigations unit ARCHANT

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A VICTIM of the blood contamination scandal says he has been heartened by the response of the county's MPs as the campaign to get justice gathers pace.

Steve Dymond, 59, from Broadstairs, was infected with hepatitis C after using an infected blood product to treat his haemophilia – a condition which prevents the blood from clotting.

The illness affects the liver and Mr Dymond now suffers cirrhosis.

He is one of thousands of people to suffer from a scandal which saw blood products sourced from the US – often taking blood donations from prisoners, drug users and the homeless – before being shipped to the UK to cope with mounting demand for such treatments.

But the blood was not properly checked and many were infected with hepatitis C or HIV. Or both.

Most concerning, was that when concerns were raised, the Department of Health continued to treat patients on the NHS with the contaminated blood. The scandal stretches from the 1970s to the early 1990s. It is thought nearly all haemophiliacs treated at the time – either by using blood products to help temporarily clot their blood, or via transfusions – became infected. Many have already died.



BLOOD: Contaminated supplies were common in the 1970s to early 1990s

Now Mr Dymond, who has seen his career and hopes of a family stolen from him as a consequence of his health issues, is joining forces with many other sufferers in Kent and across the country, in ramping up calls for justice and a suitable financial settlement.

Mr Dymond and his wife, Su Gorman, have been forced to move into her 85-year-old mother's home as they struggle to support themselves on pay-outs of just £14,000 a year.

The Government only apologised for its role in the scandal earlier this year, when Prime Minister David Cameron also confirmed he would be making an announcement on the issue before Parliament breaks for summer recess.

Opinion is split between demands simply for a suitable financial compensation package and a full blown public inquiry in which those affected can have their stories heard.

> **"The need is such that this is not the time for tweaks or half measures. A full and decent settlement is now required."**
>
> **Steve Dymond,** contracted hepatitis C through contaminated blood products

As part of the process to apply pressure, Mr Dymond met with his local MP, Craig Mackinlay – Conservative member for South Thanet – last week to discuss the issues.



DEMANDS: Steve Dymond is determined to see justice is served

Mr Dymond told KoS: "We explained in some detail, the need for a viable and decent package of on-going support and substantial lump sum compensation payment, which would seem to be the minimum the government should deliver.

"The need is such that this is not the time for tweaks or half measures.

"A full and decent settlement should include an interim payment to alleviate the real distress experienced by so many. This, then, should be followed by a substantial, easy access, non means-tested system which permits the infected/affected community to live out what is left of their lives with dignity and a degree of peace of mind.

"Craig Mackinlay was particularly receptive on this, as he was on the cost benefit analysis of allowing treatment access to haemophiliacs contaminated by hepatitis C before the need for cancer treatments or liver transplants become inevitable.

"Mindful the government has announced it will make a statement in the next few weeks, we impressed upon Craig we would be pleased if he represented our concerns and gave direct input into that statement. We hope he will be able to."

KoS, in association with parent company Archant, has run a series of articles over recent weeks focusing on the issues at stake.

Mr Dymond, who went public on his condition for the first time as part of our coverage, added: "We have been much moved and feel very appreciative of other Kent MPs who have written to us with messages of compassion and understanding.

"The MPs who have taken the time and consideration to respond in writing are Sir Roger Gale, Michael Fallon, Bob Stewart, Kelly Tolhurst and Julian Brazier and we wish to express our sincere thanks for their compassion and hope they will be able to contribute to the decision making process that will bring some semblance of restored dignity to this small and beleaguered community; haemophiliacs contaminated and betrayed by the very institutions that swore solemnly to protect them."

JEREMY HUNT'S COMPENSATION COMMENTS SPARK FURY

CAMPAIGNERS fighting for justice were aghast after health secretary Jeremy Hunt told one constituent any payment made to sufferers would "be taken away from money... for patients in the NHS".

Leading group Tainted Blood, which represents many victims accused him of "emotional blackmail" and his comments were "wholly unacceptable".

Mr Hunt, writing to one of his constituents in Surrey, said of any compensation deal: "Any additional resources found for a settlement will be taken away from money spent on direct patient care for patients in the NHS, where we are already under severe pressure, so it is not going to be easy."

Tainted Blood was left fuming with the assessment.

It said: "Many of our members view this as emotional blackmail. It is wholly unacceptable for him to suggest current NHS patients should have to suffer in order to make recompense for mistakes of the past.

"It would also be immoral to cut the services now required to address the consequences of NHS infections."

In several countries, including France, Canada and Italy contaminated blood scandals have ended up being played out in the courtroom.

In one, a former French health minister was convicted and jailed for knowingly using contaminated blood on patients.

No legal cases have ever been pursued in this country.

In the 2007 Lord Archer independent inquiry, Lord Owen, a Labour health official in the 1970s, said: "The more you look at this, the more you look at the question in France, the more you begin to see people who were fearful of a legal process going on in this country.

"The issues we were dealing with were extremely important and you suddenly find that during a 10-year role, ministerial papers can be pulped."

KoS urges our readers to add to the pressure on our local MPs in a bid to ensure justice is finally served for those who have suffered for far too long.



CLEARED: Former site of the ABC cinema, opposite the Town Hall, is still the town's number one discussion point. But could fuming locals soon be able to invest in its regeneration?

Could crowdfunding see curtain finally fall on epic cinema saga?

Stood empty for 14 years and then demolished, this prime, undeveloped piece of real estate in regal Tunbridge Wells remains the hottest of political hot potatoes. **Jamie Weir** reports on the latest twist...

FIFTEEN years ago, cinema goers would wait patiently in a line which would snake down Mount Pleasant Road, before climbing the steps and into the town's long-standing cinema.

Back in the year when Russell Crowe's Gladiator was wowing audiences and Tom Hanks found himself on a desert island in Cast Away, little did those cinema-goers know that the very building they were in would find itself stranded for years too on one of the town's most prominent sites.

Since then it has been at the centre of a storyline which has had more twists and turns than a Hollywood thriller.

And now its latest instalment is being written after the developers, who had promised so much, decided to cut their losses and sell the plot in January.

But having been coined the town's 'biggest grotspot' by the fiercely proud locals, one attempt to buy it may stretch the credibility of even the most seasoned film-goer.

Because the local Liberal Democrats – swamped by the ruling Conservatives on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council – are mounting an audacious bid to reclaim the site for the people.

And they hope to raise the millions required to buy it by asking for donations through crowdfunding – the increasingly popular online method of making an appeal for people to chip into a cash pot for a specific goal, and be rewarded with a product or share.

It has become a hugely popular way for music acts to raise money to record albums by promising products in exchange for a donation.

Now the Lib Dems are exploring the possibility of crowdfunding the millions needed to raise the money to buy the site and finally deliver something on the land, to breathe new life into such a central part of the spa town.

The idea is being spearheaded by Ben Chapelard.

He told KoS: "Tunbridge Wells has a number of affluent residents, and they may be willing to contribute to finally sort out this grotspot.

"Our bottom line is that we want to see this site developed for the good of the town, and to be beneficial for local people. We've already consulted with residents in the past, finding that a new park, or open space for people was favoured."

It's a very big ask, however, especially given the sheer scale of the funds required.

Cynics would suggest it was merely a political stunt – another chance for the media savvy local Lib Dem group to deliver some body blows to the all-powerful Conservative-led council.

After all, despite the cinema site always being in private ownership, there have been huge waves of opposition to the council for its failure to act as developers came and went without securing the tenants demanded.

There have been calls for the council to deliver a compulsory purchase order (a rarely used power which can allow local authorities to 'force buy' private sites for the good of the community) or simply to buy the land now that it is back on the open market.

But, as ever, the risk of investing huge sums of public money and run the risk of finding the same problems experienced by developers is undoubtedly high.

The council has, over the years, pondered its options, but opted against any move.

Explains Cllr Chapelard: "The saga of this central piece of land has been running for years now, and we thought the site being placed on the open market would be a golden opportunity to finally get something done about it."

Cllr Chapelard previously lobbied the council to get a valuation on the site, with the intention of pushing for its purchase for community use.

He told KoS: "We felt this would give the council a good chance at helping regenerate a grotspot which had been a problem in the town for around 15 years. When we put forward a motion requesting the council get a valuation on the site, we were told that it had no resources to do this, or to contemplate buying it."

Leader of the council, Conservative David Jukes, who has a building background, is exasperated that the criticism continues.

He told KoS his job was to safeguard and protect taxpayers' money.

He said: "A valuation would have cost a significant amount of money, and certainly more than the council could have afforded. If, over the past 14 years, no major international developer has managed to make any money from the site, what makes the Lib Dems think a borough council would be able to?"

An initial approach was rejected by the site's owners. A renewed bid remains in the offing.

Jonathan MacDonald, deputy chief executive at the council, says the authority will monitor the situation.

He said: "We will continue to work with any new owner. The town will be let down if the agent recommends, or the owner accepts, a high bid for the land if the financial viability of the scheme is undermined as a result.

"After a number of false starts over the years, this time we really need whoever is chosen as developer to actually deliver."

All the people of Tunbridge Wells want is for the next chapter of the cinema site saga to be one which finally sees it come back to life in some capacity.

A HISTORY OF DASHED HOPE AND EXPECTATION

THE unveiling of the Odeon multiplex on the town's North Farm industrial estate also marked the end of the cinema in the town centre.

Formerly the ABC, Odeon had run the site up to its decision to relocate. And when it vacated the site - which, legend has it, was the place the parents of music legend David Bowie met - it put a legal covenant on the building; preventing it from being used as cinema.

Planning permission in 2008 seemed set to see the area redeveloped but the credit crunch put paid to that. In 2011, private equity firm the Carlyle Group and London-based developer, Bellhouse Joseph bought the property for £9.9m.

However, after talks with supermarkets and hotel chains fell through, the owners cleared the site and then decided to sell it off in January of this year. Initial offers were put in earlier this month. The results of which are not yet known.

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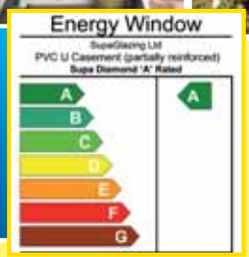


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Tigers sharpen their claws on mountains with Spanish troops

The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment has been on exercise with an elite regiment in the Pyrenees. **Jamie Weir** jetted out too to watch them in action

ALTITUDE, freezing nights and baking days, as well as hail stones the size of golf balls. These are all problems faced when fighting in the Spanish Pyrenees, as 158 reservists from The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (3PWRR) found when they went on exercise in the region.

The territorial army may once have been thought of as 'weekend warriors', but, now rebranded as the reserves and at the spearhead of the British Army's plans for the future, they're an altogether different breed.

Members from 3PWRR – also known as the Tigers due to a historic deployment in India – got stuck in breaking barriers and becoming the first British troops to exercise alongside elite Spanish mountain troops from the 62 Regimento de Cazadores de Montana (62 RCZM), sometimes likened to the Spanish version of Royal Marine Commandos.

The Spanish troops exist to fight in inhospitable environments, with mountainous landscapes a speciality for them, and wildly fluctuating weather conditions no issue for them.

Soldiers from 3PWRR – with bases in Rochester and Canterbury – didn't find it so easy, with commanding officer (CO) Lieutenant Colonel John Baynham noting that it had been one of the greatest challenges.

He said: "The weather has been absolutely atrocious at times, and a real challenge for soldiers with hail stones the size of golf-balls. We've had to make sure the troops out in the field are rotating their kit to ensure they're staying dry when they need to.

"There's been some serious rain, with the weather turning quickly at times. At such high altitude, it can get extremely cold at night as well, which has provided a challenging environment for the unit to train in."

Soldiers out in the field also made mention of the challenges caused by the weather.

Private Simon Harris told KoS it had been a struggle during some points.

He said: "There have been some bursts of absolutely torrential rain. Real downpours which soak you incredibly quickly. When you're deal-



RESERVES: A soldier gets ready for another enemy contact

TIGERS FIRST RESERVE UNIT TO USE REALISTIC SIMULATOR

THE reserves have been given some seriously hi-tech kit to make sure the training is as realistic as possible for them.

The battalion spent some of their time using the Deployable Tactical Engagement Simulation training system (known as Dtes), which is made by Saab.

The system - which has mainly been used by regular troops for training - allows leaders to get a realistic assessment of soldiers' performance on the battle field.

Captain James Titchener told KoS that the system can save lives when soldiers get into combat, by ensuring when they train, it is done as realistically as possible.

Captain Titchener said: ''Dtes allows us to train in as realistic a manner as is possible.

''The equipment comprises a vest covered in sensors which the soldiers wear, and a GPS unit. Soldiers are also issued with equipment, which, when fitted to their rifles fires lasers down the trajectory of their shots.

''That means that when the guns are fired, it can detect whether the bullet would have hit the target. All of the information registered by the sensors is recorded.

''Those recordings mean that after the action, a full review can be conducted which graphically illustrates every soldier's performance.

''There is no more guessing where soldiers were on the battlefield, or what they were doing. We can find out who has the best aim, who was doing what they should have, and who failed to perform to the required standard.

''It's a great system for helping teach soldiers, and has got some brilliant results.

''It's a lot like very expensive, much more high-tech laser quest.''



ing with the cold at night, as well as a very high altitude location things become a struggle pretty quickly, forcing you to dig deeper to overcome the challenges.

"When you do conquer one of the peaks though, it gives you the best sense of achievement."

The altitude – around 2,000 metres above sea level – makes everything tougher for the soldiers, forcing their bodies to work harder while on exercise.

That's no laughing matter when you're assaulting an enemy position, or dealing with an ambush on your vehicle, especially when your enemy – played by the Spanish troops – are well acclimatised.

The exercise, which was called Iberian Star, saw Spanish troops take the role of the enemy, helping British troops get a better tactical understanding of fighting in the mountains.

Lt Col Baynham said: "We've been fighting against the Spanish for the last week. They've had a live enemy and they've been absolutely astounding.

"They have been very conniving, and understand the terrain immensely well. They've been extremely challenging."

In fact, the Spanish troops use the terrain to help them manoeuvre to their advantage, often hiding in undulations which cover their attacks.

The commanding officer of 4 Mounted Battalion 62 RCZM, Colonel Salvador Madrano told KoS his troops had taught 3PWRR some valuable lessons.

He said: "As a mountain regiment we are used to this type of terrain, and used to working in high altitude. Although the British troops have been extremely good, we have man-

Continues on page 16



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FAMILY: Father and daughter team, Simon and Emily Harris from 3PWRR

LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

IT isn't just sons who follow in their father's footsteps.

For 20-year-old Sittingbourne-based student, Emily Harris, watching her dad, Simon Harris, get back from weekends away with 3PWRR was too much of a lure to resist.

She told KoS: ''I used to watch him arrive home and hear all the tales he'd have, and it was just something I decided I wanted to do.''

Mr Harris said his daughter joined for similar reasons to his – namely adventure.

He told KoS: ''I decided to start as I wanted a bit of excitement in my life. I'm the branch manager for a decoration company, and I wanted to start doing something totally different. I was yearning for some challenge, and a bit more of the outdoors life.

''It is totally different to anything I do during my day job, which means I have this escape. It's brilliant fun, and it's a great way to serve my country too.''

The Private has even gone on tour to Afghanistan with 3PWRR, giving him further opportunities to travel, train and adventure more.

He says that having his daughter at 3PWRR has been great, telling KoS she's just 'one of the guys.'

He said: ''It's brilliant having her along with me, and it works really well. We have had occasional differences, but very few big ones.

''She's become just like the rest of the team, and it's handy that she's become part of 3PWRR, as we tend to exercise together.''

Emily also seems to love the experience, telling KoS she's 'met great people' and done 'amazing things'.



Continues from page 15

aged to teach them a few things.

"The British have learned that the mountains are a different terrain where you must work at a different pace.

"Moving around can take longer, and soldiers need to operate slightly slower.

"The altitude means that men have to be extremely fit, and with steep slopes to climb, it's important to take a bit longer."

The second week of Iberian Star saw the Spanish troops work far more closely in co-operation with 3PWRR, as the two nations came together, training in tandem and teaching each other.

The two units worked together through a series of military scenarios, with the final part of the exercise a dawn attack by the two forces on an enemy stronghold.

The attack started with a long overnight march which saw the soldiers put their stamina to the test as they crossed rugged mountain terrain – something made more difficult in pitch darkness, despite the high-tech night vision each soldier was equipped with.

The Tigers arrived at their objective under cover of darkness, with the final attack set to take place at 5.30am.

The attack was a success, with Spanish and British soldiers fighting alongside one another to conquer the enemy position.

The whole exercise not only gave British troops a great training opportunity, but also worked to bring them closer to their Spanish counterparts.

The end of the exercise saw Colonel Madrano tell 3PWRR he knew the two nations could fight alongside one another in the future.



ASSAULT: Troops push through the enemy positions during the final assault

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THRILLS: Back to life after 12 years abandoned, the park will continue a phased opening of all its rides during the course of the coming months.

Dreamland thrills the crowds as hopes high for bumper summer

After an acclaimed, star-studded opening weekend, bosses at Margate's re-imagined amusement park are seeking to capitalise on the buzz as it looks to establish itself for a long and prosperous future

By Maria Chiorando
maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

AS THOUSANDS of visitors flock to the all-new Dreamland in Margate this weekend, park chiefs were celebrating the successful launch of the retro-themed tourist destination.

Eddie Kemsley, the park's chief executive, was lauded for her efforts and this week was delighted with the success of last Friday's opening, which included big name stars performing in a special concert in the evening and, more importantly, thousands flooding through the doors to try out the rides during the day.

Even the fact many of the attractions are not yet ready – most notably the big wheel and the Scenic Railway rollercoaster – it was warmly received.

The gates were closed at 5pm before re-opening for the Hulabaloo – a sold-out concert hosted by Charing-based comedian Vic Reeves and featuring the likes of chart stars Marina and the Diamonds and Chas 'n' Dave.

> **"I could hear people screaming all over the park, really enjoying the rides. It is that innocent fun that we are about, and we really achieved that"**
>
> **Eddie Kemsley,** CEO, Dreamland Trust

Ms Kemsley told KoS this week: "The opening night was amazing, a once in a lifetime experience. It was such a culmination of efforts of the people who worked so hard, so to actually get there was just incredible.

"The atmosphere was electric – and it was just the first of many, many wonderful events we're delighted to host. Marina and the Diamonds are the perfect pop headliner and all the acts including Chas 'n' Dave were handpicked to reflect the past, present and future of Dreamland and Margate. It's a year in the life of Dreamland in one day."

Throughout the evening, queues built for the rides, which have been described as a 'carefully curated' collection. The Crazy Mouse ride is a traditional fairground favourite featuring 90 degree turns, fast bends and steep drops.

"That ride is for the people, including the younger crowd, who want something a bit more hair rasing, and it is pretty exciting," says Ms Kemsley.

"With our rides, we will be changing some of them on a seasonal basis, so what you get is always going to change.



"On Friday, I could hear people screaming all over the park, really enjoying the rides. That innocent fun is what we are about, and we really achieved that."

Many people dressed up in retro

Turn to page 20

Turn from page 19

clothes for the opening night, including Amy Belleheue from Rochester, who came in a full 1940s outfit.

"I first came to Dreamland a long time ago," she said. "I always dress like this, and love the retro vintage look – I don't own any other clothes, so I love the retro vibe. I love it here."

According to Ms Kemsley: "This kitsch, retro vibe is something that is really fashionable right now – it's really hot and really out there. People who dressed up really contributed to the vibe of the night, they were part of it, and part of the look."



The look, of course, is a fundamental part of the park, with designer Wayne Hemingway (see box) very keen to point out how every detail ties into the 'brand' the creative team have carefully created.

Responses in the national press tapped into this, with the Guardian's Zoe Williams describing it as 'walking a tightrope between an aesthetic event and a funfair' and saying: "I see the dodgems in question: squarish, pastel coloured, built for the slenderer figures of the past, so beautiful and evocative and Brighton Rock that they look poignant, almost vulnerable."

Ms Kemsley says: "We are many things, we are a funfair, we are a seaside destination, we are an event venue, and we are an art project – if you want to see that element to us. If that's not your thing, you will just come here and enjoy it."

The Telegraph's Olivia Parker spent the day touring the park and speaking to locals. "There is a lot left to do, and we're reminded again and again that today's opening is only phase one of the project," she wrote. "The famous Hall by the Sea, where the Rolling Stones played one of their earliest gigs, and the 1930s art deco cinema are still to open in three later launch phases.

"But with the smell of vinegar splashed on chips spiking the air, the sounds of Elvis and Johnny Cash floating through the spokes of the ferris wheel and the first rides going merrily round, Dreamland is finally open for business, and that's all that really matters to the people of Margate."



HEADLINERS: Chart star Marina

So have they succeeded in impressing longtime visitors of the attraction?

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and the Diamonds thrilled the crowds on Friday night (above), joined by Chas 'n' Dave and comedian Vic Reeves (left)

Andrew and Caroline Spencer, from Folkestone, used to come to Dreamland several decades ago.

"It has changed," Mrs Spencer said. "But it's better than I remember it the last time I saw it. It was quite sad really. It felt unloved, and decaying. But there's a feeling about it now, something special.

"While we are really disappointed that the Scenic Railway isn't open, it's great that it's open at all. It looks bright, and vibrant, and feels really exciting, like there's something in the air. I love the retro look – I think its terrific."

Mr Spencer added: "I never thought I'd be here, queueing for a ride again, so hats off. I can't believe how quickly all this work has been done."

Ms Kemsley added: "It has been fantastic so far, with a great response, people have been really supportive, but do come down and check it out, we still need your support."

■ **Tickets for Dreamland can be purchased in advance at www.dreamland.co.uk. Thanet residents can get a discount for tickets bought on the door by producing a Thanet District Council council tax bill.**

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DREAMLAND

DREAMLAND means many things to many people. More than just an amusement park, the re-opening is a victory for the local community.

When the ribbon was finally cut on June 19, it was the culmination of a 12-year battle that pit people power against large business, and saw Thanet council make a brave and ultimately successful move in buying the site with a compulsory purchase order.

But the history of Dreamland goes further back than that – often considered to be the oldest surviving amusement park in Great Britain, it dates back to the early 1860s. Known as the Hall by the Sea, it was operated by the famous circus owner, 'Lord' George Sanger.

The park changed hands many times over the decades, being known as Bembom Brothers for many years, before finally closing in 2005 following years of decline. There were plans to turn it into a retail and residential site. It was sold to the Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company for £20 million, but Thanet District Council finally bought it in September 2013.

The creative team appointed by the Dreamland Trust, the group that emerged from the campaign to save the venue and that has worked with partners to secure public funding, has been on board ever since, with legendary Red Or Dead designers Wayne and Geraldine Hemingway at the helm.

Working with a miniscule budget – a total of £18m, which has come from Thanet District Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the SEA Change programme – the team have finally seen their vision come to fruition.

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Vibrant in Faith and Learning

How watching feel-good films in great outdoors is big box office with families

Like spending time outdoors? Like watching movies? You're not alone because, as **Molly Kersey** discovers, grabbing a picnic and a blanket and heading off to an outdoor cinema is proving increasingly popular with families all across the county...

WITH summer upon us, people are looking for more and more reasons to spend their time in the great outdoors.

And outdoor cinemas, which have seen a surge in popularity, seem to appeal to people who want to get outside and do something different.

Consisting of a movie projector, inflatable screen and a sound system, they invite people to set up a picnic blanket or chair and watch a film at an outside location – entirely exposed to the elements.

While a lot of outdoor events such as music festivals and concerts have been going strong for a long time, these screenings offer something new, and seem to attract people from a variety of age ranges as a result.

"We attract young and older couples as well as groups of friends and families," said a spokesman from The Outdoor Cinema, which will be holding screenings of Mrs Doubtfire, Ghostbusters and Grease at Salomons Estate, Tunbridge Wells.

"The types of films that we are showing are varied to appeal to as many people as possible."

So just what is it that people like about outdoor cinemas?

"It is a refreshing alternative to the usual cinema experience and people really want make a night of it," he said.

"It is a classic and simple concept that has been going since the start of cinema. The quality of screens and projection systems have got a lot better and cheaper during recent years however, and people are beginning to make the most of it. This year especially it is a type of event that has attracted a huge amount of people."

Some of these screenings have become increasingly quirky and unusual – this year Luna Cinema will be offering events which will see people sitting on double beds at various locations across the county.

George Wood, founder of The Luna Cinema, which brings screenings to locations including Leeds Castle and Swanley Park, said: "The Luna Cinema have always been committed to screening classic films in the most incredible locations around the country.

"When we undertook our first ever screening back in 2008 in Dulwich Park, we had no idea just how popular open air cinema would become in the UK. Hundreds of screenings later, enjoying a much-loved film on a big screen under the stars has become a classic element of the British summer."

And the movies chosen appeal to people across the spectrum – with families interested in films such as Grease and adults reliving their teenage years with choices such as Back to the Future.



OUTDOOR: Central Park is hosting Mamma Mia! and Dirty Dancing

This nostalgia is a key part of what makes them special, says leader of Dartford Council Jeremy Kite.

Last year, the council held free outdoor screenings in Central Park – showing Grease and Top Gun.

"The films by and large aren't too challenging, they tend to be kitsch films that people remember from their teenage years and their childhoods," Mr Kite told KoS.



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"If you think about it there is very little chance of anyone having the experience again and recreating some of their young adulthood in the company of other people.

"You can watch these films on DVD, but it's not the same.

"It's social, you're in lovely surroundings and you're sharing those surroundings with people. I think it's very different from sitting at home and watching it."

This year they will be screening musical Mamma Mia! and eighties classics Ferris Bueller's Day Off and Dirty Dancing.

Mr Kite added: "It's our second year of doing it this year. The first year was really, really successful. We spent a lot of time and effort regenerating Central Park and we wanted to populate it with lots of events. The tickets were absorbed very, very quickly and it's obviously really popular for people."

He said that in just three days, 4,000 of the free tickets on offer were scooped up.

"I think people are just getting more social. I don't know what would happen if we charged for our tickets and it's not something we are going to find out, we are committed to running them for free and we have had no problem getting rid of tickets," he said.

However, being in the great outdoors could have its downsides, with British weather being notoriously unreliable.

But, many say this is all part of the fun.

"Of course, the weather is a problem, you never know how it will be, but that's part of the excitement of it," explained Mr Kite.

"Unless it's really torrential I think people will still come."

Gemma Wright, press officer for Leeds Castle, agreed.

"To be perfectly honest everyone just kind of embraces the great British weather," she said.

"It tends to go ahead no matter what the weather. Worst case scenario we would cancel and rearrange for another night."

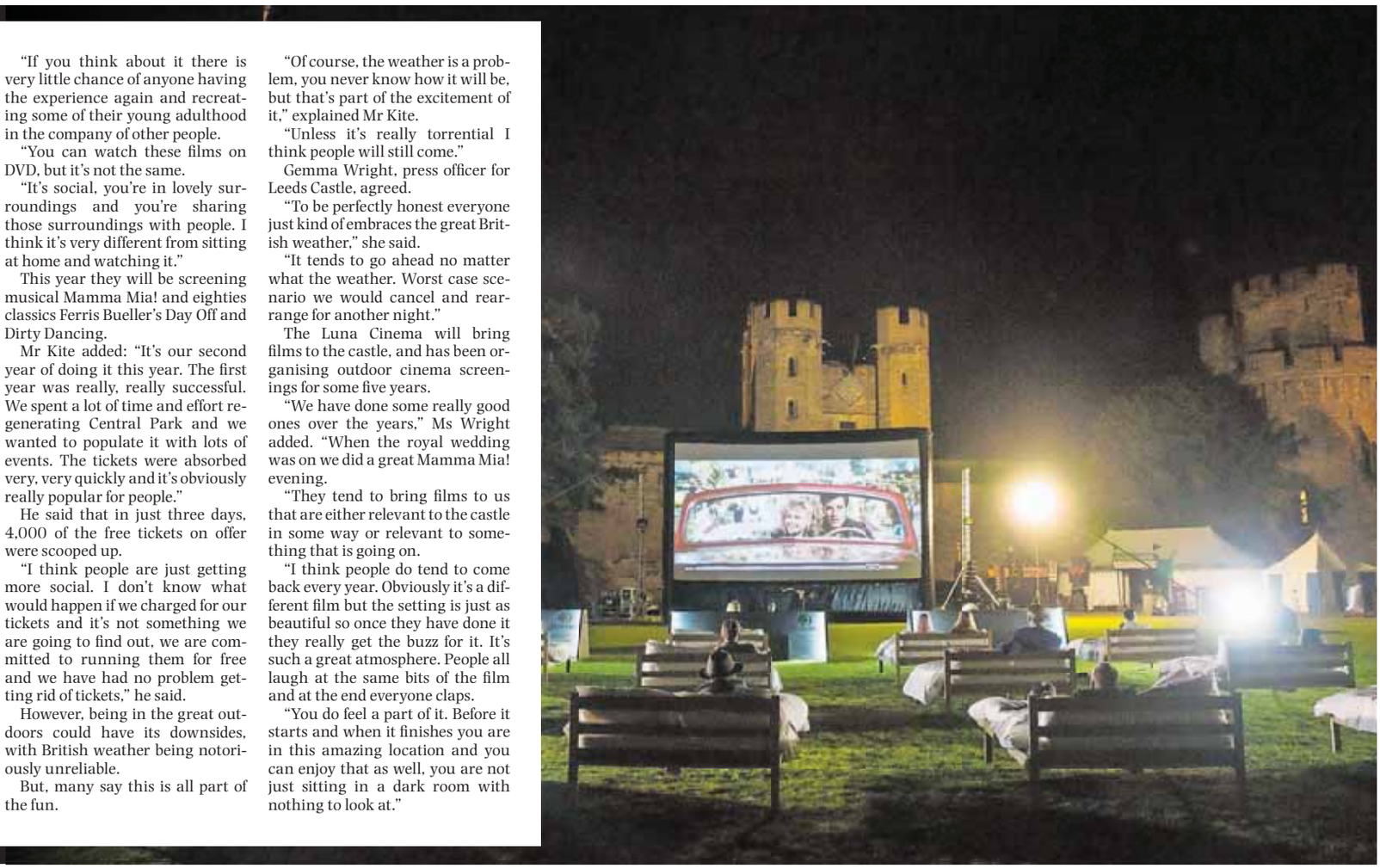
The Luna Cinema will bring films to the castle, and has been organising outdoor cinema screenings for some five years.

"We have done some really good ones over the years," Ms Wright added. "When the royal wedding was on we did a great Mamma Mia! evening.

"They tend to bring films to us that are either relevant to the castle in some way or relevant to something that is going on.

"I think people do tend to come back every year. Obviously it's a different film but the setting is just as beautiful so once they have done it they really get the buzz for it. It's such a great atmosphere. People all laugh at the same bits of the film and at the end everyone claps.

"You do feel a part of it. Before it starts and when it finishes you are in this amazing location and you can enjoy that as well, you are not just sitting in a dark room with nothing to look at."





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Coal garden to recall past and celebrate future

The transformation of a former mining area to a park, learning centre and site for business is the basis for a 'coal garden' display at this year's RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show. **Jamie Weir** finds out more...

ONE of east Kent's most turbulent recent times is to be highlighted and remembered at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, after two students from Hadlow College picked it as their theme for a garden design this year.

The story of the county's coalfields is one of tragedy and ultimately re-birth – with communities torn apart following the closure of Kent's final pit at Betteshanger in 1989 but soon to be reborn as a park, a learning centre and a site for business.

Despite successive governments' attempts to regenerate the areas affected by coalfield closures, Betteshanger lay dormant for more than two decades after its doors closed for the final time.

But after a concerted effort by Dover District Council to find a project for the area, Hadlow College stepped in, agreeing to spearhead a massive new £40 million development which will see the site turned into a new sustainable park, with educational facilities and business spaces.

That transformation is the story which Stuart Towner and Bethany Williams – both of whom will graduate this year with a BA (Hons) in garden design from Hadlow College – will tell in their garden named Green Seam, set to be unveiled at RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in London between June 30 and July 5.

The show - which is the baby brother of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show - often takes on a more environmental slant than its better known relative.

This year it will feature a wide range of designs, with competition categories including conceptual, historic and show gardens taking centre stage.

Green Seam fits into the show garden category, promising to wow the judges with contrasting colours that represent dark colliery spoil, and green and pink plants to show Betteshanger's regeneration.

Garden co-designer, Bethany Williams, said: "It is important to me to use materials sympathetic to the particular landscape. This doesn't have to mean 'traditional' – in fact, modern materials are highly appropriate in many settings."

Green Seam will feature a mixture of modern, and traditional materials like steel structures, coal pillars and climbing plants.

The garden's other co-designer, Stuart Towner, said: "I feel that the old and new should sit side by side, creating a unique take on the old.

"However, every garden has a context and needs to be linked with its surroundings. The types of materials used are key to this connection."

The context of Green Seam, with its tale of the death of what was once a major industry will hopefully live on for many years as the garden will be brought back to Betteshanger after the show, and replanted at the site.

Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, Hadlow Group director of finance and resources and executive director of Betteshanger Sustainable Park, said: "Hadlow College commissioned this garden – its first since 2010 – to demonstrate unique ability to celebrate business and student experience in a relevant and contemporary way.

"The Green Seam garden represents the transformation of Betteshanger Colliery into Betteshanger Sustainable Park thus celebrating the history of traditional coal power contrasted with the importance of clean energy today and its relationship with the green world.

"The Hadlow Group garden 2015 is the first national 'coal garden'. Green Seam demonstrates what 'out of the box thinking' can create – a garden that identifies regeneration in East Kent, celebrates the area's heritage and exhibits students' innovative, contemporary design interpretation."



GARDEN: Designers Stuart Towner and Bethany Williams and their design



DISPLAY: Hadlow Group's garden will be at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

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Growth in sector facing shortage of home-grown young workers

Too few young people are choosing to take a job in the rural sector, reports **Jamie Weir...**

THERE'S big money to be made in the county's rural sector, but despite the promise of gold in Kent's fields, there are too few young people choosing to follow a career path into rural jobs according to a range of industry experts.

The lack of British youths looking for this type of work has led to an influx of foreign workers, keen to capitalise on the sector's growth.

It isn't often thought of as a glamorous industry, with some jobs that are physically demanding, and others requiring long, or unsociable hours.

Despite this, it brings home the bacon for many in Kent, with the most recent report from the county's rural business lobby Rural Plc estimating it creates one in seven jobs, adding a staggering £6 billion of value to the county's economy.

Ross Newham is the head of communications at East Malling Research, a scientific research institute set up to assist the horticultural industry – the branch which deals with growing fruit, vegetables and flowers.

He told KoS the industry has struggled to attract skilled British workers in the past.

He said: "Horticulture does face acute challenges in recruitment with many of the physical jobs such as harvesting and planting being undertaken by temporary workers from new accession countries in the EU.

"Seasonal migration of labour has underpinned the expansion of the soft fruit sector over the past 20 years and without it, the wider horticulture sector would have significant challenges in supplying such wonderful homegrown or UK produce throughout the year."

The familiar site of migrant workers streaming into traditional fruit picking across rural parts of Kent looks likely to continue, with Carol Ford, the commercial director at A C Goatham and Son – which owns and manages 14 farms in Kent – telling KoS that despite wanting hire to hire locally, her firm tends to employ foreign workers.

She said: "There is a significant skills shortage in the top fruit industry – apple and pear growth – and the broader horticultural sector, from graduates to the more seasonal picking and packing roles.

"As a business we always seek to employ as many local workers as possible and this year



JOBS: Workers sort apples in a packhouse

> **"Although the sector is seen as being purely seasonal and unskilled, it's a misguided perception as there are a tremendous number of jobs businesses are struggling to fill."**
>
> Pat Crawford, Hadlow College

we advertised for 500 seasonal jobs, some beginning now with thinning the fruit from the trees to then picking and packing the fruit.

"To date almost all of the applications have come from overseas workers and whilst pay and conditions are good this is still not enough to attract local people to the sector."

That, according to Hadlow College spokesman Pat Crawford, is not good enough.

Tonbridge-based Hadlow is one of the country's leading land-based further education institutions, and a training ground for many of the county's future farmers and food producers.

Mrs Crawford said: "One thing we shouldn't forget is this worker shortage has to be looked at from the perspective of dwindling food security in the UK.

"Where we were once extremely productive, less food production is leading to more reliance on foreign imports. That's particularly the case in Kent, the so-called 'Garden of England' due to the abundance of food we grow.

"Although the sector is sometimes seen as being purely seasonal and unskilled, it's a misguided perception as there are actually a tremendous number of jobs businesses are struggling to fill."

In fact, the Higher Education Statistics Agency – the official education statistics organisation – found that 91 per cent of agricultural degree graduates found work within six months of leaving university, illustrating the demand for skilled workers.

Mrs Crawford says that the problem begins when youths begin thinking about their future at school.

She said: "The biggest problem with bringing new people into the sector's workforce is that teachers, as well as careers advisors, lack any real understanding of the industry. When children visit their careers advisor, typical jobs like law, medicine, banking or sales are talked about, but jobs in the land-based sector are overlooked.

"It is really at that point, when children are making decisions on their future, that more needs to be done to illustrate to them that this industry is set for growth, and there are some great careers available."

Rural Plc is aiming to tackle that very issue by trying to ensure people entering the workforce have reliable knowledge on the rural sector's employment prospects.

Charles Tassel is the farming and environment director with the organisation, as well as being an active farmer and board member for the Kent County Agricultural Society.

He told KoS: "Kent has a thriving and innovative fruit sector which will require new skills over the coming years. Rural Plc believes that the first step is to provide young people and career changers with the right information to make a choice.

"We will be launching a free careers app later this summer with more than 165 different careers listed. This will enable users to have a tool to research the options available.

"We will be encouraging schools, career advisors and students to use this as a means of understanding the diverse range of jobs available."

Ms Ford from A C Goatham also says that more needs to be done to tackle the issue.

She said: "There are many opportunities for the right candidates to progress and build a long term career in horticulture and we should be encouraging more youngsters in Kent to consider this – even if for a holiday job.

"Like all agricultural work it is hard physical work but with many opportunities to progress for the right person."

It appears to be a subject which new Conservative MP for Faversham and mid Kent, Helen Whatley is eager to tackle having signed the National Farmers Union's pledge to back British farming earlier this year in May.

She told KoS: "Farmers have raised with me a shortfall of skilled agricultural managers. In a nutshell, not enough farm managers are coming out of agricultural colleges.

"I'm interested to hear if this is a problem many local farmers are facing, and if it is a serious problem it is certainly one I would raise with the secretary of state for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs."





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No persuasion needed for Jane to visit county

The 19th century novelist Jane Austen's works are revered by literature lovers and her many connections to the county have now inspired a new book, as reporter **Molly Kersey** finds out...

"KENT is the only place for happiness. Everybody is rich there."

Coming from one of the most widely-read novelists in English literature, this is high praise indeed.

Jane Austen, who complimented the county in a letter in 1800, wrote iconic romantic fiction novels including Emma, Mansfield Park and Persuasion.

She had many links to Kent, visiting frequently during her lifetime – a welcome guest at grand estates in the area.

And retired graphic designer Terry Townsend has written a book about the time that she spent here.

"In the book I have 21 different locations, villages or towns and cities – like Canterbury and Rochester," he told KoS. "I've had an interest in Jane Austen and her work for about 50 years, since the time I lived in Sevenoaks and saw a notice on the railings outside Red House where Jane's great uncle lived, and that began an interest to discover more."



HISTORY: Some of Jane Austen's personal writings reveal her fondness for the county

Ms Austen's father was born in Kent, later moving to Hampshire and serving as a rector of Steventon parish.

"He was born in Tonbridge and brought up there," explained Mr Townsend. "He went to school at Tonbridge School and became a master there later on.

"He had a sponsor in the form of his Uncle Francis, he used to bring his children from Hampshire to visit the uncle and keep on the right side on him really. He lived in the Red House at Sevenoaks.

"That was the first time Jane came to Kent, when she was about 12 and a half."

And when her brother Edward was adopted by Kent-based relatives, Thomas and Catherine Knight, she had even more ties to the area.

The story of how this came to be is quite extraordinary, and would be unthinkable today.

"It was tradition at the time when people got married to make a round of visits to introduce their spouses," Mr Townsend said.

"The Knights were so taken with young Edward Austen they asked if he could accompany them on their honeymoon, and he just became such a firm favourite that they eventually adopted him.

"Reverend George Austen was a little strapped for cash, he had a large family, so he probably thought it was the best thing for the boy."

Indeed, Ms Austen's family was sizeable - she had six brothers and a sister.

The Knights were from Godmersham, in Ashford, and this gave Ms Austen the perfect opportunity to travel to the county and explore what it had to offer.

Edward Austen lived at Godmersham Park – a house and estate which he later inherited, situated between Canterbury and Ashford.

She would visit, often staying for several months, and went to surrounding east Kent towns including Deal, Ramsgate and Broadstairs.

"Living in Hampshire, when she journeyed to East Kent she had a choice of several routes through the county," explained Mr Townsend.

"One of the main routes was the one that the pilgrims used to Canterbury, along north Kent, Rochester and Gillingham and that sort of thing, so she got to know all of that area."

Ms Austen travelled to Kent by stage coach a number of times, but had to wait until a male relative was able to accompany her, as women did not do this alone at the time.

She would often be conveyed by Edward's coach or carriage when she stayed with him.

And she had the chance to enjoy social activities too - attending balls in areas such as Ashford.

"The Austens had relations in other parts, particularly friends of Edward's because he was at the forefront really of the county set, he had lots of friends around," said Mr Townsend.

"The modern Boots store at 56 High Street, Ashford, stands on the site of the Saracen's Head Inn where Jane attended balls in the assembly room."

And after another of her brothers, Francis, married a woman from Kent, her opportunities for visiting the area increased even more.

So did Kent make it into any of the books that are still read to this day?

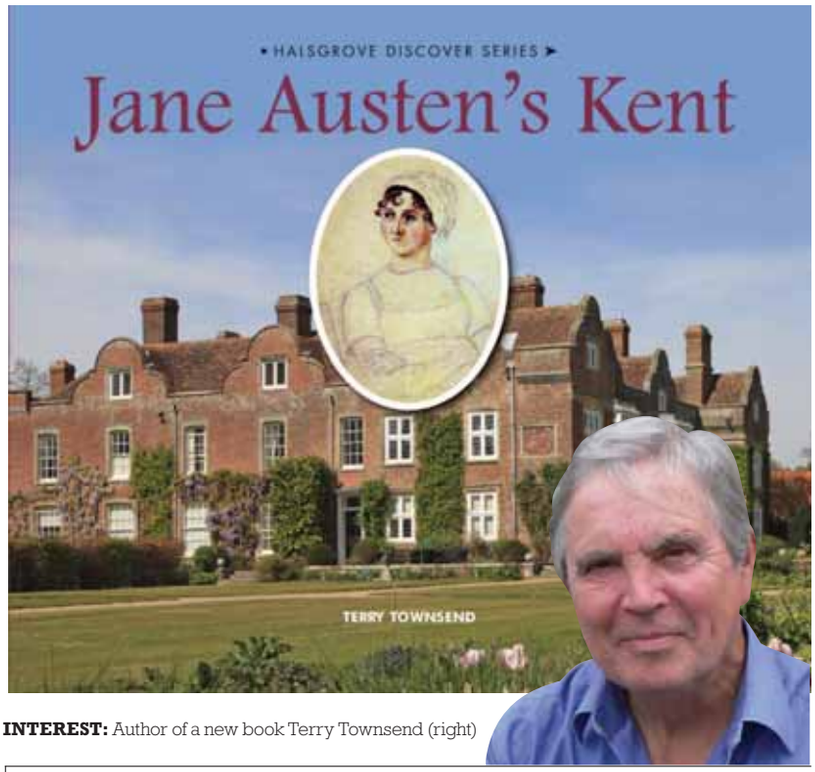
The county is mentioned in one of Ms Austen's most popular novels, Pride and Prejudice, so it is perhaps appropriate that Groombridge – a few miles away from Tunbridge Wells – was used as a location for a film adaptation starring Keira Knightley.

Mr Townsend explained: "Jane tells us that the fictional Rosings Park – home of Lady Catherine de Bourgh – and Hunsford Parsonage – home of Reverend Collins – were near Westerham.

"And Mr and Mrs Gardiner changed horse at The Bell in Bromley."

Mr Townsend now lives in Dorset with his wife Carol.

■ **Jane Austen's Kent is published by Halsgrove Publishing and it is priced at £16.99. For more information, visit www.halsgrove.com.**



INTEREST: Author of a new book Terry Townsend (right)

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WIND: Turbines may be allowed to turn if locals don't want wind farms near them

Campaigners welcome the public getting 'final say' on wind farms

New Government guidance announced by Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark as **Jamie Weir** reports...

THERE are few energy technologies which divide opinion like wind turbines.

And those campaigning to ensure no more giant whirling blades are built received a boost when Tunbridge Wells MP and Department for Communities and Local Government minister (DCLG) Greg Clark announced communities would have the final say on whether wind farms are allowed.

He stated that the Conservatives' "one nation approach is about backing people on the issues that really matter to them."

However, Ukip's Kent County Council councillor for Swale West, Mike Baldock, says that rhetoric isn't enough, and now his party wants to see the Government delivering on its manifesto promise.

Cllr Baldock told KoS: "This announcement is a step forward. Whether what he's said will actually manifest itself in reality is another thing entirely.

"After all, we must not forget that this is the same Government who spoke about putting house building decisions back into the hands of local people.

"That has ended up meaning that local people get a say if, and only if, they allow more housing."

Cllr Baldock isn't the only person questioning how the Government's news will actually work in practice.

Rural campaign group CPRE Kent says that it is eager to see the announcement put to the test.

Brian Lloyd, senior planner for CPRE Kent said: "We have long been campaigning for communities to have more say in all planning decisions and welcome this new guidance on windfarms.

"It says local and neighbourhood plans must clearly identify areas suitable for wind energy – however, in Kent, local plans have so far not included this. It also says that developers must fully address the planning impact and concerns of the communities before the planning authority can grant permission. We need to ensure that communities are listened to and really do have the final say."

Not everyone is in favour of the announcement though, with fans of wind energy saying it could stifle what is still a fairly small industry.

Keith Taylor, the south east MEP for the Green Party said: "This announcement is an ideological move by the Conservatives as part of their continued campaign to block new wind farms.

"In general, I agree with giving local communities more of a say over decisions in their area but if the Conservatives really believed in this principle then they would also give local communities a decision over fracking."

That's something Ukip's Cllr Baldock agrees with, saying that communities deserved to be listened to more.

He said: "Locals should get greater say on any type of energy extraction which is taking place in their area. That would allow them to make sure that their community gets the best possible deal for the future.

"There have recently been a number of solar farms proposed for rural areas of Kent which have been extremely controversial. Why shouldn't locals get the final say on them as well."



UKIP: Cllr MIke Baldock says locals should have more say

For wind farm manufacturer Renewable Energy Systems (RES), which is currently trying to get permission for between nine and 11 turbines near St Nicholas-at-Wade, the announcement from Mr Clark won't change anything.

Alison Jones works as the company's community relations manager.

She told KoS: "As far as consultation is concerned, RES has always worked on the principle that the involvement of the local community is crucial. That principle won't change.

"We always consult heavily with local people, and where necessary change plans to ensure that residents views are taken into account. We'll find out what people's priorities are, and try to shape our proposals to ensure that what we end up with works for everyone.

"The announcement from the minister is unlikely to change anything we do, though, if anything, we may work on our consultation process even more."

CPRE Kent says that the St Nicholas-at-Wade proposal is likely to be one of the first tests in Kent of the ministerial announcement.

Mr Lloyd said: "RES Developments have submitted an environmental issue request and outlined plans for community consultation. The company has previously used turbines 126 metres high in their wind farms.

"We will be looking very carefully at RES's plans so that we can identify the zones of visual intrusion and the potential impacts on listed buildings and other heritage assets in this beautiful landscape."

Mr Clark's announcement is something the chairman of St Nicholas-at-Wade and Sarre Parish Council, Sarah McManus, wholeheartedly agrees with, telling KoS that "local people know the area best" so should be the decision makers.

Cllr McManus said: "RES have been good at speaking to the parish council, and asking for the local communities views. They will be running workshops a little later this month, and it'll only really be at that point that we'll start to know exactly what local residents feel about the proposals."

One issue Mr Taylor says needs to be considered, is breaking the UK's reliance on polluting fossil fuels.

He said: "The UK is falling behind the rest of Europe on renewable energy generation and with the Paris climate change summit in December approaching, we must do all that we possibly can to catch up."

ANOTHER BLOW FOR WIND FARMS

IN a further blow to the wind industry, the Government announced on Monday that onshore wind farms would see their subsidy cut back.

Under the new arrangement, any new projects which take place after April 1, 2016, will no longer get subsidies from Government.

The energy secretary, Amber Rudd, made the announcement in a speech to Parliament. She said that although it was the Government's aim to move to low carbon energy generation, a balance had to be struck.

She said: ''As we decarbonise it is imperative that we manage the costs to consumers. Although renewable energy costs have been coming down, subsidies still form part of people's energy bills and as the share of renewables in the mix grows, the impact gets proportionally larger.''

In 2014, onshore wind required £800 million of subsidies. The minister said that if subsidies continued, the UK could end up with more onshore wind projects than it could afford possibly leading to higher bills for consumers.

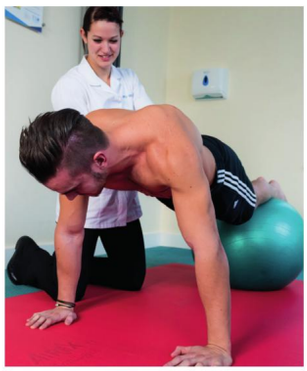
Ever considered a career in Osteopathy?

If you're thinking about what to do after sixth form or college, or contemplating a career change, then perhaps osteopathy should be on your list of options.

Osteopathy is a distinct healthcare profession. It's recognised by the British Medical Association and is legally regulated in the UK. Having a UK recognised qualification in osteopathy allows practitioners to set up their own practices and, as primary healthcare professionals, they are able to both diagnose and treat patients. The profession is very popular in Europe and across the globe, with recognition on a par with medicine in America. The average income of qualified osteopaths is over £40,000 and many earn in excess of double that running successful clinics in locations such as Harley Street.

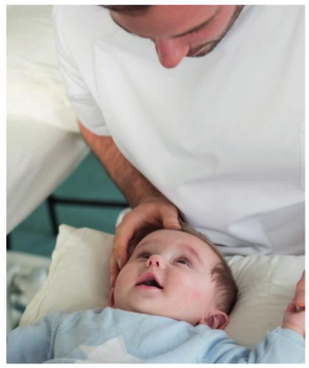
Osteopaths use their hands to gently release muscles and joints with a variety of techniques working with the natural healing properties of the body. This then encourages healthy movement, which in turn restores healthy function. Techniques involved could be massage, articulation, lymphatic drainage, manipulation of joints or the ever so gentle balancing techniques and cranial osteopathy. Each appointment lasts between 30-45 minutes, which gives the osteopath time to fully understand their patients' complete state of health.

Osteopathy is recognised to reduce pain, increase joint mobility and relieve muscle tension. Most readily associated with the relief of backache, arthritic symptoms and exercise related injuries, osteopathy is actually a far broader healthcare approach. Based on the concept that the structure of the body is directly related to the function of the body osteopaths have positive health effects on a wide range of common conditions, and because it aims to improve the way that our bodies function it can be applied to patients of all ages. Osteopaths work with elite athletes and top sports people, they work with Olympic teams and football clubs, they treat children, they treat pensioners. Their holistic approach to health is appreciated across the population.



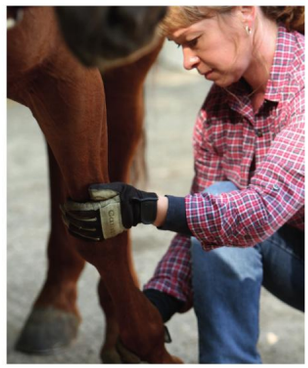
It may be surprising to know that Maidstone is recognised as a centre of excellence for the training and practice of osteopathy worldwide. As well as being home to one of the original post-graduate schools in Britain, Maidstone hosts the world renowned European School of Osteopathy (ESO). Founded in 1974 the School has been instrumental in the development of osteopathic education across Europe and beyond. The School currently has partner colleges in Russia, Poland, and Denmark, but it also helped the development of schools in France, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Egypt and Italy.

Based at the beautiful Boxley House, the ESO provides undergraduate education validated as a partner college of the University of Greenwich. Its four year Integrated Masters degree is respected for having one of the most innovative and exciting ranges of manipulative techniques, which means that graduates are well prepared to excel in an exciting and rewarding career.



The European School of Osteopathy has a well-established and successful clinic on the Tonbridge Road in Maidstone, where its reputation for treating patients of all ages is well known. The Clinic provides over 20,000 treatments each year with the Children's Clinic being particularly popular; parents of children of all ages, from a few days old to teens, lay testament to the support, effectiveness and professionalism experienced by visiting the ESO Clinic. As do the many thousands of adults who have benefited at the hands of the School's student practitioners, under the supervision of experienced and qualified osteopaths.

The ESO is also trailblazing in the expanding world of Animal Osteopathy, which is now offered as an MSc. This is an increasingly popular area of the profession. Osteopaths are now treating thoroughbreds and ponies, pedigree and rescue dogs, while others are working in zoos with exotic animals and in wildlife parks in Africa.



So, if you think that you would enjoy a career helping people of all ages and have an interest in human physiology and health maybe osteopathy is for you. The ESO considers every application on the personal qualities of the applicant. If you don't have the required level of science qualifications the School runs a pre-entry science course in the summer, to get you up to speed. Mainly delivered via online learning facilities with occasional Saturday lectures, the summer science course has been designed not to interfere with your home/work life commitments.

So what are you waiting for? Make a positive change in your life by visiting the ESO Clinic at 104 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone. Or better still apply for a place at the European School of Osteopathy. Who knows, in September you might be embarking on the adventure of your life.

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Bringing learning to life



ENERGETIC: Tom Odell took to the stage at Bedgebury Pinetum. Credit: Steven Law.

Tom Odell and Rae Morris on stage in forest

As the talented musicians made their way to the county, Molly Kersey went to see them perform

REVIEW: by Molly Kersey
Molly.Kersey@archant.co.uk

OUTDOOR gigs have been going strong for a long time.

Many festivals make use of the great outdoors, helping audiences to combine their love of music with a natural setting.

And the Forestry Commission's Forest Live gigs are building on this idea, making use of woodland venues across the country for a number of performances.

Bedgebury Pinetum, near Tunbridge Wells, makes the list.

Talented artist Tom Odell, whose debut album Long Way Down shot straight to number one on its release in 2013, headlines the gig.

He enters the stage to loud cheers, applause and drum beats from the band and gives an energetic and lively performance during his opening song.

He clearly wants to get the crowd involved, and it works, with hundreds of voices singing along to hits such as I Know and Hold Me.

"Thank you for welcoming us in such a gracious way, it's wonderful to be back and to be playing some new songs and some old songs," he says.

He is cheerful and chatty throughout, engaging with the crowd the whole way through.

He asks if we like his new piano.

"It's a bit longer than the last one, you know?"

I don't know, I'm sure many others don't either, but he gets cheers nonetheless.

Mr Odell puts a great deal of feeling into his songs, and he gives an emotional tribute before playing Grow Old With Me.

"I dedicate this next song to my grandmother, who died not very long ago. We love her to pieces and maybe if I play it well enough she'll be able to hear it somewhere," he said.

The songs differ, some such as Resist are a little more fast-paced and others, such as his new song Somehow, are slower.

He puts a lot of energy into everything that he performs.

Mr Odell is supported by artists Alfie Connor and Rae Morris, who recently released her debut album Unguarded to critical acclaim.

"It's very good to be outside, gosh it makes such a difference," she says to the crowd.

"This has been one of the most pleasant experiences. It's absolutely lovely to be on tour with Tom. We actually toured together a couple of years ago and we collaborated on a song somewhere along the way."

That song is called Grow and Ms Morris sings it beautifully, with haunting melodic tones and a lovely accompaniment on the piano.

Ms Morris certainly has a unique sound and her electro-ballads fit the scene perfectly - with Under The Shadows and Love Again being personal highlights for me.

She has a very engaging stage presence and is clearly enjoying the performance.

The atmosphere at Bedgebury Pinetum is very calm, and it is undoubtedly a family-friendly event, with the floor covered with picnic blankets and people of all ages enjoying the show.

It is nice to see the sun go down, just like Ms Morris predicted we would in the run up to the gig.

Lights illuminate the trees either side of us, a reminder of our close proximity to the forest and indeed the reason that these gigs are taking place.

As well as aiming to bring forests to a range of new audiences, income generated from ticket sales is pumped back into protecting, improving and expanding the country's forests and woodlands.

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More motoring misery ahead if crossing decision takes too long

A decision on a new Thames Crossing needs to be made sooner rather than later to solve the long-term traffic problems at the Dartford Crossing – that's the straightforward message being sent to the Government from across the county, writes **Jamie Weir**...



CROSSING: From left to right; Dartford MP Gareth Johnson, Natalie Chapman of the FTA, Christine Drury of CPRE Kent and Gravesend MP Adam Holloway

FIVE more years of pain is what the Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association (FTA) is predicting for motorists, unless the Government acts faster to resolve the brewing crisis at the Dartford Crossing.

Currently motorists arriving at the crossing are experiencing faster travel times than in recent years, thanks to the new free-flow tolls which became fully operational in June this year.

However the FTA alongside Highways England, Kent County Council and Dartford MP Gareth Johnson are warning that it's a medium term solution, which won't keep traffic rolling in the longer term.

Before the election, the Government pledged to get started on examining the case for a new lower Thames crossing in the new Parliament. Highways England – the government organisation tasked with operating the major road network – told KoS that work is already underway to examine the two options for a new crossing which are currently being considered.

Option A would cross the river at Dartford, near to the existing crossing, while the second choice, Option C, would cut east of Gravesend.

For Dartford MP, Gareth Johnson, the answer is clear cut. The Conservative says that no new crossing should be built in his constituency. While it would be easy to dismiss this as the concern of the area's MP, he makes a compelling case.

He told KoS: "I've been quite consistent about this issue. It would be completely wrong for any new crossing to go in Dartford. I believe it should go east of Gravesend.

"Air pollution is already a serious issue in Dartford, with the current crossing making things worse than they should be. The area also has a lot of pollution from London blown down as Dartford sits in a basin. More traffic from any new crossing would exacerbate the issue even more.

"It would not only be unfair to ask Dartford to take the burden of another crossing, it would be seriously damaging to the environment."

It isn't just the environment which Mr Johnson is concerned about though. He also says that it would fail motorists – something which Kent County Council leader Paul Carter agrees with.

Cllr Carter told KoS: "I think that there is a general consensus from the local enterprise partnership that the east of Gravesend option would be the right location for a new crossing.

"That would give a new route to the north of England which would build resilience into the road network.

"You look at the air quality figures in Dartford, and it would be utterly appalling to build another crossing there.

"A crossing east of Gravesend would mean that motorists would have a choice. If there was another crossing at Dartford and there was an accident, it would still cause problems."

The FTA's head of policy, Natalie Chapman, said that currently there was no choice for freight if there was a closure of the crossing.

She said: "If the crossing is closed due to an accident, or any other problem, lorries travelling across it are effectively stranded. The Blackwall Tunnel isn't an option for many, due to size restrictions on vehicles, while the only other option is to go clockwise around the M25. The times that would take makes it unfeasible for drivers, which causes more problems.

"A new crossing at option C would give more option to drivers and probably draw a lot of traffic going through Dartford away from it."

Not everyone favours a crossing east of Gravesend though, with countryside campaign group CPRE Kent disputing that a new crossing is even necessary right now.

Chairman of the charity, Christine Drury said that transport troubles need a more holistic fix than more road building.

She said: "The free flow tolls only became fully operational northbound on June 13 so we need to let them fully bed in before we can see the impact in terms of traffic flow and efficiency.

"We also need to look closely at public transport including the effect of Crossrail and new rail services in north Kent.

"Therefore it is too early to make any decisions on a potentially very expensive and environmentally-damaging new crossing which we believe is unnecessary. It is proven and accepted by all that increased road capacity always leads to increased traffic and we are advocating a shift to public transport as a preferable solution."

That's something which Gravesend's MP, Adam Holloway agrees with.

He told KoS: "We've only just got rid of the tolls, so there is no way of knowing what the effect of that will be.

"Aside from that, any crossing east of Gravesend would do massive environmental damage, and destroy property prices for many people. A new crossing there would also be staggeringly expensive, and I don't know how it would be funded."

The forward-thinking MP also said he thought the future could hold the key to trouble at the current crossing.

He said: "Within the next decade, many vehicles on our roads are likely to have some sort of autonomous driving capability. That would mean that if there was congestion, the car could take over and all traffic could be taken down the road in the most efficient manner. That could alleviate many of the problems currently faced at the crossing."

Highways England spokesman, James Wright, said that although the free flow tolls were working to relieve pressure at the crossing, traffic would begin to build again.

Mr Wright said: "There are real improvements at the crossing right now, but they are only likely to be felt for the short, and medium term. Free flow will bring relief for the next 10 years, maybe more, but with the crossing already taking high volumes of traffic it will become crucial to get a long term solution soon."

Highways England says that it is currently working on detailed assessments of both options. These are expected to be passed to the minister responsible for transport before the end of this year, with a public consultation scheduled to take place early next year and a final decision taken sometime next summer.

Ms Chapman says that the current time frame means motorists will be left suffering more congestion, and she would like to see a new crossing built faster.

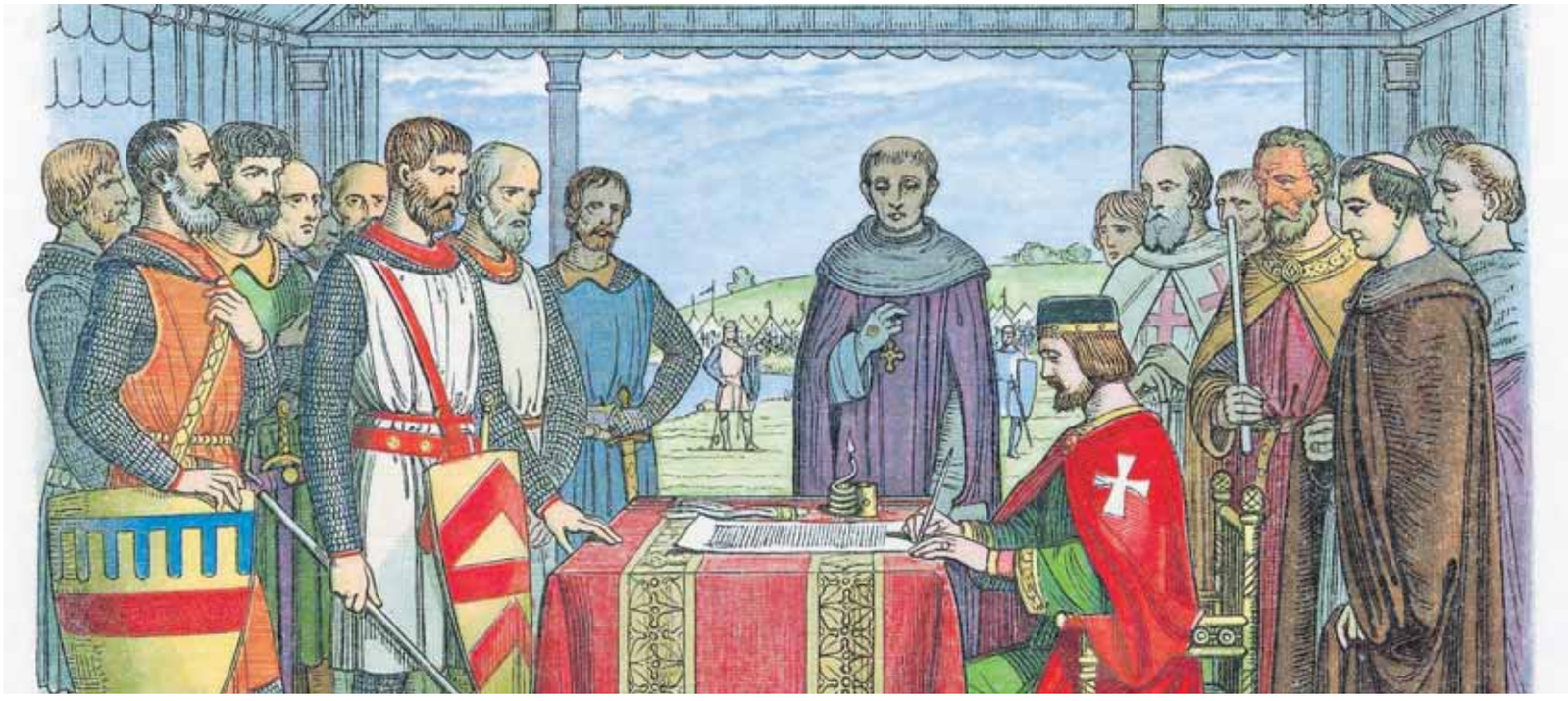
She said: "Heading northbound through the tunnels is expected to go back to pre-free flow levels by 2020.

"No new crossing is, at this stage, expected until around 2025. That means there would be another five years of pain under the current time frame."

It's a sentiment echoed by Cllr Carter, who talked of other countries building at a much faster rate.

He said: "People sitting in traffic is bad for business and bad for the economy.

"In this country we wait for far too long to get large infrastructure projects underway. The Chinese are managing to build huge projects within two years. It's going to get more and more miserable for motorists as traffic levels creep back up."



PEACE: King John originally signed the Magna Carta in Runnymede in 1215, with Stephen Langton as a mediator

Tale of the influential religious brothers and their lasting legacy

Molly Kersey looks at the lives of Stephen and Simon Langton and their roles in medieval Kent...

THIS year marks the 800th anniversary of the creation of the Magna Carta – a crucial document stating no man was above the law.

Among other things, the charter promised access to swift justice, protection of church rights and limitations on payments to the crown.

And at the heart of its creation lies Stephen Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury between 1207 and his death in 1228.

The son of a landowner, he went to study in Paris - where it is believed he met Pope Innocent III.

His election to the position of Archbishop sparked a political struggle that rumbled on for years.

"It was King John's objection to Stephen Langton being appointed Archbishop of Canterbury that helped lead the course to Magna Carta in 1215," explained Paul Bennett, director of Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

"After the death of the previous Archbishop Hubert Walter in 1205 there was an election for the new Archbishop of Canterbury."

"There was a dispute between King John and the monks of Canterbury Christ Church Cathedral Priory. They both put forward their own candidates and were unable to come to an agreement," added Louise Wilkinson, professor of medieval history at Canterbury Christ Church University.

"Pope Innocent III pulled out his trump card and suggested Stephen Langton."

He was consecrated by the Pope in 1207.

"John was absolutely furious and he refused to accept Langton into England," explained Professor Wilkinson.

The King went on to declare that anyone who recognised Stephen Langton as Archbishop was a public enemy, expelling a number of Canterbury monks who supported him.

And worse was to come.

In 1208, Pope Innocent III placed England under a papal interdict.

"It meant the churches were closed and there were very few church services," explained Professor Wilkinson.

"In an age where the safety of your soul was very important it was a time of real spiritual deprivation and hardship."

Many defended Stephen Langton during this time, including his brother Simon - who appearing at Winchester Council to demand he was allowed back into Canterbury.

"You had four corners – the two brothers, King John and Pope Innocent III. They all tied up so much," said Mr Bennett.

In 1213 King John yielded and Stephen Langton and a number of his fellow exiles returned to the country.

"Stephen absolved the King and as part of this absolution the King promised to repeal many unjust laws and to recognise many liberties," explained Mr Bennett.

"Having come to that agreement he immediately violated all the agreements and turned his back on them all. As a consequence Stephen Langton then became one of the main leaders in the stand against John, he was incredibly energetic and worked with the barons to force John to sign the Magna Carta."



INFLUENTIAL: The brothers had powerful roles in Canterbury.

Professor Wilkinson said: "He was seen as rebellious and radical but we actually think he was a mediator and moderator and wanted to bring about peace."

King John had become unpopular with a number of the country's barons, and they marched on London, Lincoln and Exeter.

He asked Stephen Langton to organise peace talks and met with the rebels at Runnymede on June 10 1215, where he signed the Magna Carta.

However, it was annulled by Pope Innocent III just months later.

He also excommunicated the barons, but when Stephen Langton refused to publish the excommunications he was suspended, and told he would only be released from this suspension if he stayed out of England until peace was restored.

"He stayed abroad until 1218 and the death of John," said Mr Bennett.

The Magna Carta was reissued in 1216, 1217 and 1225 – with the latter supported by Stephen Langton.

"Stephen Langton is one of the great figures of the age," explained Professor Wilkinson.

And his brother was very influential at the time too.

"Simon Langton was equally impressive," explained Mr Bennett.

Indeed, there are schools and buildings in Canterbury that bear his name - a nod to his achievements.

In 1227, he was appointed as the Archdeacon of Canterbury, holding that position until the time of his death in 1248.

He helped to negotiate a renewal of a truce with France, after he was employed by John's successor – King Henry III.

Like his brother, he had a theological background.

"He was the prebund at Strensall in the diocese of York in 1214, while his brother was the Archbishop," Mr Bennett explained.

"He too studied in Paris and was almost certainly a lawyer by training, he was employed by his brother in negotiations with King John as early as 1210.

"In fact, he appears in Winchester Council of 1208 to demand that Stephen be allowed into the see of Canterbury, so as early as 1208 he was representing his brother."

He added: "He was involved in other disputes, like his brother.

"In 1215 he was elected the Archbishop of York, so you would have had one brother as Archbishop of Canterbury and one as the Archbishop of York, but the King objected. He wanted Walter De Grey to do it. Langton failed to become Archbishop."

And the brothers were supportive of each other.

"They were incredibly powerful religious men.

"They really reorganised the church in many ways and both of them left great libraries and an incredible legacy behind."



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MANHATTAN: Kathy Batts swam around the island, covering some 28.5 miles in nine and a half hours dodging oil, rubbish and a huge number of fast-moving watercraft

55-year-old open water swimmer earns her place in record books

Swum the English Channel? Looking for the next challenge? That's what spurred on mother-of-two Kathy Batts to head to New York and swim round the Island of Manhattan, writes **Chris Murphy**...

AT the age of 55, many women would be content to put their feet up and dream of an expensive shopping trip to somewhere exotic – somewhere, perhaps, like New York City.

Kathy Batts, from Strood, decided to visit the Big Apple but not to go shopping. No, having already swum the English Channel, she wanted a new challenge and instead decided to swim round the island of Manhattan.

She is now one of the oldest people in the world to have completed the gruelling challenge, which is one third of what Americans call the Triple Crown of marathon swimming, along with the English Channel and the Catalina Channel in California.

Of course, Kathy is no swimming novice, being the treasurer of both the Channel Swimming and Piloting Federation and the City of Rochester Swimming Club.

She also carried the torch in the run up to the last Olympics.

Her marathon Manhattan effort took some nine and a half hours to complete and afterwards Kathy told KoS: "It is 28.5 miles around the Island of Manhattan. I was a solo swimmer setting off on Tuesday, June 16, at 6.45am to avoid boat traffic and make use of the tides.

"I should have swum on Monday but there was a bad storm so it was put off until the Tuesday, which meant the tides were not as good and I had a predicted time of 10 hours 45 minutes."

The married mum-of-two said: "It was choppy in the Hudson River, a bit like Dover on a bad day, but this is my kind of swimming, so I made up ground and finished in nine hours, 36 minutes. I was thrilled to say the least."

She added: "I have been closely checking all the records I can, and it looks like I am one of the oldest ever to have completed the swim.

"Considering how popular this part of the world is, it is very rare for people to take on this swim, because it is so tough, dangerous, and you must have either a solo Channel or Catalina swim behind you.

"The waters are usually very busy, and shipping won't always be happy to slow up or change direction because of swimmers. The rivers have ferries crossing all day. Just two others also swam on the same day as me – there was a Mexican who was 20 minutes ahead of me and a Scottish lady some two minutes behind me.

"My feelings on the swim are that I loved every bit and so want to do it again."

Of course preparation and planning are everything when taking on a dangerous swim like this and Kathy had her experience of swimming the Channel – famed for being the busiest shipping lane in the world – to help her.



BEFORE: Kathy just before she tackled the marathon swim

Knowing how to handle traffic at these sorts of levels enabled Kathy and her team on the escort boat to ensure her safety.

"On the Saturday my team and I did the Circle Line Boat tour and made notes of the areas that needed extra attention," she explained. "For example Hell Gate is where the tides are strong and three parts of the East River meet. It separates Astoria, Queens from Randall's and Wards Islands which used to be two separate islands and are now joined. The water can be very turbulent.

"And further south, the area loved by tourists is always busy, the Staten Island Ferry tends to pull away at top speed. The East River is a dirty stretch of water and tough to cope with."

On the day of the swim, Kathy and the other swimmers had the NYPD police launch escort them the entire way.

She added: "Looking towards the shore, I could see joggers stop and wave but I didn't stop to acknowledge them, sadly. Time was important to me and I had the Circle Line Ferry pull alongside me which was pretty exhilarating. It gave me a boost.

"I loved that tourists took the time to stop and take a look, and I didn't mean to ignore them. Knowing they were interested in what I was doing spurred me on."

But traffic was not the only problems she faced on the swim, she explained: "There was something all the way. The East River has to be the dirtiest stretch of water I have ever swam in. There was even oil on the surface, along with debris. It was so disgusting - how I haven't ended up with a stomach bug or perhaps something even worse, I will never know."

Kathy, who works as a house parent at Kings School, Rochester, and as lifeguard trainer, says she would not have been able to take on the challenge, let alone complete it, without her support team.

She said: "This is dangerous stuff, and needs plenty of pre-planning and preparation. I have the support of Stewart Winn, the coach at the City of Rochester Swimming and Lifeguard Club, and Janet Gifford, the club's secretary. Kevin Murphy is my open water coach, friend and colleague from the channel swimming and piloting federation and advised me on Manhattan. He is an advisor for all the open water swims and is himself a Manhattan swimmer. Then there is Sarah Dunstan, a long distance swimmer from Virginia and a good friend."

She added: "Without their combined work on the boat this swim would have been impossible. They made my feeds of liquids, sorted my Jelly Babies out, plus took messages and updated the Facebook page."

There are no prizes for guessing Kathy's next challenge – swimming the Catalina Channel – and giving her the Triple Crown of open water swimming.

Looking forward, Kathy said: "I would so love to do it now but realistically I have to save hard for the entry fees, flights, accommodation, and training. The long list does tend to go on and on - so maybe within two years.

"Sponsorship is impossible. No one wants to sponsor 55-year-old women. The Manhattan entry fees alone were $3,300, so money is always a problem."

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PLEASED: Director Ian Talbot, writer Peter James and producer Josh Andrews put in a great deal of time and effort to find the perfect cast.

Writer on how show keeps audience on edge of seats

Molly Kersey speaks to best-selling author Peter James about play Dead Simple

MICHAEL Harrison thinks that he has it all.

And with a successful career, beautiful fiancee and good group of friends, many would agree.

But when a stag do prank goes terrifyingly wrong, he finds himself living a nightmare.

He is buried alive – trapped in the darkness as events slowly unfold around him.

The plot of hit play Dead Simple is very dark, and it is based on Peter James' best-selling novel of the same title.

And part of his inspiration for writing it came from an equally frightening piece of writing by a literary legend.

"Edgar Allen Poe's poem The Premature Burial has always stayed with me and scared the hell out of me," he told KoS. "When people have stag do's they tend to get quite brutal. Mine certainly was.

"I thought – what is the worst thing you could do to someone? Bury them alive."

Dead Simple is widely considered to be Mr James' most popular work.

And at its heart lies the complex character Detective Superintendent Roy Grace.

It is the first book to feature him, and the ongoing Roy Grace series has sold more than one million copies and been translated into 36 languages worldwide.

"Dead Simple is the first of the 11 novels published so far," explained Mr James.

"When you first meet him we discover his wife, Sandy, who he loved and adored, had vanished on his 30th birthday.

"He's been unable to move forward in his private life, he's got no idea what happened to her.

"He's damaged by this personal history. He has been to mediums and he has an interest in the paranormal, as many detectives I have met over the years have.

"The mark of a good detective is to have an open mind.

"I have met lots who have followed up on leads from clairvoyants. He's got that side to his nature as well.

"I always say, if I am ever murdered, I would want Roy Grace to investigate my death."

As Michael lays trapped in the coffin, Detective Grace leads the race against time to try and solve his mysterious disappearance and free him.

But with nothing originally as it seems, and the clock ticking, can he get to him before it's too late?

Roy Grace is played by actor Gray O'Brien, who is well known for his roles in TV shows including ITV soap Coronation Street, Taggart and Peak Practice.

And Mr James thinks that his portrayal of the character has been 'fantastic'.

"He's just brilliant," he said. "He spent a lot of time with people learning to speak how Sussex Police speak. He's actually Glaswegian."

So how has it been seeing the production take shape?

Mr James explained: "I never dreamed the book would take off and become a stage play.

"I have always loved live theatre.

"My parents had seats every Thursday night at the Theatre Royal Brighton.

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Continues from page 41

"I used to go and always dreamed something I had written would be there on stage."

The play is directed by Olivier award-winner Ian Talbot, and produced by Josh Andrews.

Mr Talbot, Mr James and Mr Andrews all combined their efforts to find the perfect cast to appear in the production.

The play features Hollyoaks star Jamie Lomas as Michael Harrison and Tina Hobley, of Holby City fame, as his fiancee Ashley.

"I have been really pleased with the script," Mr James said.

"Tina Hobley said to me 'you must feel like God, because we were in your head and now we're standing in front of you'.

"In a way it's very strange to see all these characters that were in my imagination suddenly appearing on the stage and they are so much how I imagined.

"They have been beautifully cast. Tina Hobley is just wonderful, she plays a wicked Ashley.

"She said she could only do 10 weeks, because she has got young children. We agreed to that and were going to have a month break so we could recast.

"We got to eight weeks in and she said, 'I am really loving this, can I stay on?'."

And they have made sure that the production is packed with surprises.

"In creating the play we wanted to make sure that it was faithful to the book but that people who read the book would actually get surprises as well," explained Mr James. "One or two scenes have been changed, so you can see the people who read the book being wrong-footed.



FANTASTIC: Tina Hobley and Jamie Lomas are starring in the production. Credit: Daisy Honeybunn.

"There are a couple of shocks."

And the production has been received by audiences in a number of different ways.

"We have had one or two people who were quite claustrophobic in the audience who were running out and coming back in again," he said.

It has also been met in a more light-hearted way during one performance.

"The prank all goes wrong, and the whole theatre is dark for a moment and Jamie Lomas has been buried alive and he says 'where am I?' and someone shouted 'you're in Woking mate!'," Mr James recalled. "I love watching the audience, I find that every bit as fascinating as watching the play.

"Every night there is a different reaction."

Mr James travels around to see the play performed as much as possible, and he has attended more than 30 of the venues to see his work come to life on the stage.

"I have been to most of the venues, I tend to go as much as I can to each new venue. The audience is different every time," he said.

"It's always the most exciting and most electric when it's a completely full house and we have had that for every single performance."

A huge amount of research has gone into Dead Simple, and other pieces of work created by Mr James.

"For the last 25 years I have been going out with police on a very regular basis," he said.

"I am a big believer in research. I think that it underpins everything you are writing about.

"I think for me the most important thing is characters, then research, and then plot comes third.

"If you are reading a book and you don't believe what he or she is writing about then you don't read on."

Dead Simple will be at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, from July 6 to 11.

To book tickets you can visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

Alternatively you can call the box office on 01227 787787.

Family adventure delights



PANTOMIME adventure Aladdin will be performed at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, from December 22 to January 9.

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Play inspired by a classic

THE Boy Who Never Grew Up will be performed at the Theatre Royal Margate on November 14 at 2pm.

The family-friendly show is inspired by JM,Barrie's classic tale Peter Pan.

For more information, visit www.theatre-royalmargate.com.

Swing music showcased



A concert featuring Swing music will be held at Margate Winter Gardens on August 13.

Swing Into Summer will start at 2pm.

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The Drifters in Dartford

THE Drifters will be performing in Dartford as part of their UK tour.

They will be taking to the stage at The Orchard Theatre on July 30.

Their concert will feature classic tracks as well as some of their new songs.

To book, call 01322 220000.

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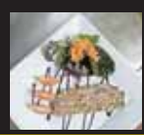
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Singer joins festival line up



BRITAIN's Got Talent finalist Calum Scott has joined the line up for the Dartford Festival, which is held in Central Park.

The 26-year-old wowed judges during the TV show, and will perform on July 18.

Bellowhead to say farewell

FOLK band Bellowhead will be performing at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone – the only Kent date on their farewell tour.

They will be taking to the stage on November 17 at 7.30pm.

Call 0844 871 3015 or visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone to book.

Stewart Francis in town



COMEDIAN Stewart Francis will be performing his new show at the Theatre Royal Margate on December 2.

To book, call the box office on 01843 292795 or visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com.

One Direction tribute act

ONE Direction tribute act Only One Direction will be performing in Dartford next month.

The show features songs from all four of the band's hit albums including What Makes You Beautiful, Story of My Life and Steal My Girl.

They will be at the Orchard Theatre on July 27 at 4pm. Call 01322 220000 to book.

Choir concert marks a decade worth of song

By Molly Kersey

Molly.Kersey@archant.co.uk



A CHOIR concert will be taking place to mark the 10th anniversary of the formation of Whitstable's Horsebridge Singers.

The anniversary concert takes place on July 11 at St Mary's Hall, Whitstable, with choir members selecting their favourite pieces from over the last decade to perform.

The group has sung at a number of community events, including the installation of the Brian Haw peace bench on Whitstable beach last summer - unveiled in memory of peace campaigner Mr Haw.

They formed in September 2005 following a workshop staged by singing teacher Laura Gillham.

Ms Gillham said: "At that time we were actually rehearsing in the toilets above the tennis courts on the beach but we then moved to more salubrious surroundings at the Horsebridge Arts Centre from which the group took its name the following year."

Horsebridge Singers has more than 30 members, and perform an eclectic mixture of acapella music from all around the world.

Ms Gillham added: "Expect to hear anything from Macedonian folk songs to Doo Wop – and all things in between."

The choir has given public performances in support of a number of charities including Water Aid, Cancer Research and Save the Children, as well as performing at events.

Ms Gilham said: "At the heart of the group's ethos is the conviction that singing, particularly in an ensemble, is good for individuals and communities.

"It offers physical, mental and emotional benefits, confirmed by scientific research, in short - it makes you feel good."

And she is hoping that the anniversary concert will be "an uplifting musical celebration."

Musician and songwriter Nigel Hobbins will also be performing and there will be a disco.

Tickets are £5. To purchase visitand www.lauragillhamsingingteacher.com.



ANNIVERSARY: The concert will be held in Whitstable.



DECADE: The group formed back in 2005.





Roux Jnr and his First Class Chefs in a new show

Cookery series on Disney Channel will see school children putting their kitchen skills to the test...

GROWING up, Michel Roux Jr enjoyed slap up dinners made by his decorated chef dad Albert Roux and uncle Michel. No wonder then, that his memories of school dinners pale in comparison to these veritable feasts.

"Eugh, I don't want to even go there," he says, wincing at the thought.

"I did go to English school, and I'm afraid to say, I know exactly what gristly mince and packet mashed potato tastes like," adds the 55-year-old, who admits he's had a "bit of a head-start in life", growing up in a family where food was so important.

While chewy meat and watery mash was common fodder back in his school days, the stodgy school dinner stalwarts are certainly off the menu in his new TV cookery competition First Class Chefs.

Starting this month, it's his first series for the Disney Channel and sees teams of schoolchildren putting their kitchen skills to the test, in a bid to transform their relationship with food.

Twelve teams of pairs will take part in a range of tasks, including devising menus, shopping for ingredients and cooking them in the kitchen.

In the final, two school canteens will be turned into restaurants, serving up a spread for fellow pupils, with the winning team scooping £10,000 to fund a school project.

And already the former MasterChef: The Professionals judge, who lives with his wife Giselle in London, has seen some considerable "talent and knowledge" from the pupils, who are aged between nine and 11 years.



TALENTED: Michel Roux Jnr.

"They've been cooking everything from the quite simple to the complex – complex for their age, but dishes even a lot of adults wouldn't contemplate," he says.

"To be able to cook some of the dishes they've been doing, and so competently, is amazing to see."

Like Jamie Oliver before him, Roux Jr hopes the series encourages more children and their families to whip out the pans and start cooking.

"It's great to see these children taking such an interest in food, and that comes from their family," he explains.

"Food is not just fuel.

"Their families are not just buying ready-meals, whacking them in the microwave, and shoving them in front of the kids, in front of the telly.

"No - their kids are taking part in choosing what they're going to eat, and it's great."

His own daughter Emily, who has also followed in his foodie footsteps, will appear as a special guest chef and help with the judging.

"She's 24 now, so she's no longer really a trainee," he says of his "exceptionally talented" daughter."

He added: "She's earning a good wage and really enjoying herself cooking.

"We get on very well and she always wants to do her best."

Leeds Castle concerts

FORMER Kent radio presenter Sue Dougan will return to the county to present this year's Open Air Classical Concert, held at Leeds Castle on July 11.

The concert is celebrating its 37th year and will feature a programme of music from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by John Rigby.

For more information, or to buy tickets, visit www.leedscastleconcert.co.uk.

Brad Pitt's Fury at event

THE tank used in Brad Pitt movie Fury will be at the Combined Ops Military Vehicle and Air Show at Headcorn Aerodrome on August 15 and 16.

The Second World War Sherman Tank, or 'Lucy Sue' as her owner Gavin Copeman calls her, will be in action on both days of the event, taking part in battle re-enactments.

Visit www.combinedops.co.uk for further details.

Jo Brand back on stage

COMIC Jo Brand will be returning to her stand-up roots and performing new material at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, on September 11 at 8pm.

Ms Brand has a long list of TV credits including BBC series Getting On, which she wrote and starred in, and sitting on the judging panel for ITV show Splash.

For more information, or to book ,you can visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk.

Iconic opera is shown

ONE of the most famous operas of all time will be performed at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells.

Carmen will be performed on October 10 at 7pm.

The opera features international soloists, a full orchestra and a highly-praised chorus.

For more information about the show, or to book tickets, you can visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.













Breathtaking trip to Bali's beaches

TRAVEL REVIEW: Bali

by Katie Wright







PICTURESQUE: Bali offers stunning views and serene spas, as well as the bustling Ubud market.

THE sun is setting over the clifftop Uluwatu Temple and a huge white monkey is taking aim at a ring of fire balls, kicking them one by one into the air as an increasingly alarmed audience looks on.

But they needn't worry. There's not a hint of animal cruelty here.

The mischievous primate is actually a human dancer playing the part of Hanoman, the magical monkey sent to rescue goddess Sita from the clutches of the evil Ravana, in a traditional Kecak Dance performance.

With a choir chanting rhythmically against the backdrop of a stunning sunset, it's a breathtaking way to start my trip to Bali.

I'm staying at The Mulia, an uber-luxe resort in Nusa Dua on the southern tip of the island. Rooms range from stunning suites with terraces and hot tubs, to secluded private villas with butler service, and I'm lucky enough to be staying in the latter.

The resort overlooks a picture-perfect private beach where the waves lap gently on the white sand shore.

The pools are equally picturesque, so I spend my first few days horizontal on a sun lounger and develop a mild addiction to coconut juice, supped from a freshly cut green fruit.

The property sprawls over a gently sloping hillside, with the villas offering the most stunning views over neighbouring islands.

The resort opened just over two years ago, so the design and decor are modern but still beautifully reflect Indonesian heritage.

Likewise, the serene spa features the latest treatment technology, but therapists are also trained in Balinese techniques, while the restaurant selection offers the best of Asian cuisine as well as flavours from further afield.

I'm delighted to discover a sushi buffet at almost every meal (yes, even breakfast) while the all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch is a global feast of epic proportions.

A lot of tourist attractions in Bali revolve around religion and, on the half-hour drive from Denpasar airport to The Mulia, I lose count of the number of temples we pass.

By midday, the temperature has topped 30 degrees, so I go in search of some food and lunch. My local guide, Anto, drops me off at the side of a busy road and directs me along a quiet track between two rows of houses.

Within minutes, houses give way to palm trees and the sound of wind chimes signals I'm close to the famous Balinese rice paddies.

I arrive at the Sari Organik restaurant. I tuck into a delicious plate of Nasi Goreng, fried rice with salad and spicy vegetables, just as the heavens open. It may be monsoon season when I visit, but the daily (or mostly nightly) downpours thankfully never interfere with my activities.

With clear skies above once more, I decide to jump on a motorbike taxi and head to the Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary, full of macaques and adorable grey monkeys.

I ask an attendant handing out pieces of corn if I can have a few and quickly attract the attention of a mummy macaque with a baby clinging to her back. She gingerly takes the corn from my fingers, then scarpers off. A shallow pond seems to be the most popular monkey playground, as they jump and jostle on the branches above, occasionally landing with a huge splash in the water below.

I could have watched them for hours, but Anto hurries us back into the minibus for our next stop, the bustling Ubud market.

I make a beeline for a sign that reads Balinese Massage, having heard the island's full-body treatment is not to be missed.

I spend the next hour being pummelled, prodded and twisted into submission. It's heavenly, and costs 60,000 rupiah (about £3). I decide that next time I visit Bali, I'm going to have one every day.

I float back to the bus in a blissed-out reverie and snooze for our 90-minute drive back to Nusa Dua.

However you play it, Bali offers a unique mix of lively towns, Hindu heritage and sunsets so serene they'll relax even the most stressed out westerner.

Just as long as you steer clear of those flying balls of fire.

TRAVEL FACTS

KATIE Wright was a guest of The Mulia & Mulia Villas (www.themulia.com) where rooms are available from £475 per room per night (two adults sharing), including breakfast and afternoon tea (taxes extra)

Flights from London to Bali with Garuda Indonesia (www.garuda-indonesia.com) start from £596 in economy and £2,357 in Business Class.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



LONDON ROAD
(15, 92 mins) Musical/Drama

THE ground-breaking stage work, which premiered in April 2011, documents the real-life discovery of the bodies of five women in Suffolk in 2006 in the words of residents of the titular Ipswich street.

A media scrum including journalist Simon Newton descends upon Ipswich, where locals are gripped by fear after the murders of five women, who all worked as prostitutes in the area.

The residents of London Road including bubbly mother Julie and enigmatic neighbour Dodge are obvious targets for TV crews because prostitutes continue to tout for business outside their homes.

A creepy taxi driver called Mark is one possible suspect, telling a passenger that he has a fascination with serial killers, but that doesn't mean he is one.

When London Road resident Steve Wright is arrested by Suffolk police, battle lines are drawn between locals, invasive media and the working girls, represented on screen by Vicky.

ACCIDENTAL LOVE
(15, 98 mins) Romance

DIRECTED by David O Russell under the pseudonym Stephen Greene, Accidental Love is a quirky, political romance based on the novel Sammy's Hill by Kristin Gore.

Roller-skating waitress Alice Eckle enjoys a simple life in her small Indiana hometown, where she is poised to marry her self-obsessed boyfriend Scott.

As the result of a freak accident, Alice is shot with a nail gun, lodging a three inch spike in her head close to her brain.

Unfortunately, Alice doesn't have health insurance, so she cannot afford an operation that could save her life.

In desperation, she heads to Washington to meet Congressman Howard Birdwell in the hope that he can join her on a crusade for sweeping healthcare reforms.

Their battle captures the media's attention but the nail in Alice's head causes erratic behaviour and also tugs her heartstrings between her oafish fiance Scott and do-gooder Howard.



THE LONGEST RIDE
(12A, 128 mins) Romance/Drama

BASED on the book by Nicholas Sparks, the undisputed maestro of slushy romantic fiction, The Longest Ride is a leisurely trot across emotional terrain.

Beautiful people fall giddily in love in lustrous close-up, fate throws them a curve ball, separation seems inevitable, but they decide to risk everything for that one precious shot at forever, usually with the spectre of death hovering ominously over at least one of the characters.

By Hannah Stephenson
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



OVERGROWN: A new book is hoping to give people some tips on how to manage an inherited garden that has been neglected.

Tips for the neglected gardens

FRANCES Tophill well knows the problems faced by new homeowners who inherit a neglected garden.

Just over a year ago, the horticulturist, who presents ITV's Love Your Garden alongside Alan Titchmarsh, moved to a seafront house in South Devon, where the elements had battered the front garden and limited what she could grow in the back.

When she arrived, there wasn't much to keep besides a couple of cordylines, but she ripped out an enormous phormium and most of the rest. The front has been cleared to make way for raised beds and annual veg for the summer.

Tophill is terracing her back garden, which is on a very steep incline, although she admits it's a slow job because of summer filming commitments on Love Your Garden. Plus she has two other jobs - one in garden maintenance and another working in an ornamental grass nursery with adults with learning disabilities.

"When I moved in a year ago, it was very wild – almost a sand dune at the front and a naturalised bank at the back with lots of bracken, evening primrose and mallow, which had self-seeded. I'm having to keep a lot of it because it's stabilising the bank.

"I've tried some seaside plants at the front and even they've died because it's so extreme," she continues.

"I've tried all the seas - sea kale, sea lavender, sea holly - and they've all died. But lampranthus, a succulent with pink daisy-like flowers, does really well in the front, as does thrift."

In the back garden, she's growing hebe and mallow.

"I'm trying to grow things that are coast-tolerant but have a lush, jungle-type look. Sea holly and acanthus look quite nice. I'm nursing a gunnera which is in totally the wrong position, but I'm giving it all the love it needs in the hope it will survive."

The experience has given her a heads-up on what to look for in a garden when you move house, and her book First-Time Gardener offers tips.

People moving house this summer shouldn't panic about a new garden, she says, and if you can, leave everything for a year.

"Seedlings and bulbs may come up in the spring which you have no idea about in the summer."

She adds: "Remember, the landscape changes continually, and the garden may throw up surprises as the seasons change: there may be hidden treasures beneath the bare ground that will rear their dainty little heads only at certain times of the year, or you may discover that the huge bush you were thinking of removing as it blocks light does in fact earn its place after all - perhaps it produces a mass of stunning, fragrant flowers or glorious autumn colour, or stops the neighbours' kids from being able to climb into your garden."

First-Time Gardener: How To Plan, Plant & Enjoy Your Garden is published by Kyle Books, priced £16.99.



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WWW.ASHFORD.GOV.UK/FREE-PARKING

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Plenty of options for food to enjoy during summer

WITH the great British summer now well and truly upon us, there is no place like the Garden of England when it comes to taking a ride out and having a fine meal.

With the evenings staying lighter and the English summer seeing temperatures rise and the sun shine, now is the ideal time of year to sample the range of food and drink on offer in the county's pubs and restaurants.

Kent got its moniker from the huge variety of produce that farmers, fishermen and brewers have been able to bring to the market and then to the table.

Dover sole, Romney Marsh lamb and Kentish strawberries are just three of the world-class products that come straight from the county.

Then there are the top-class vegetables that spring from the fertile soils of our farms.

And when washed down with some of the local award-winning wines, beers and ciders, the whole experience is a treat that will linger long in the memory.

What's more, the beautiful countryside of the county produces a wonderful backdrop to the whole dining experience.

Kent eateries pride themselves on sourcing as much produce as possible from local producers – and with such a wide and excellent range available that is surely the wisest course to take.

Away from the countryside, historic towns also boast top-class cafes, restaurants and pubs serving high-quality dishes prepared by talented chefs and served by enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff.

So with summer here, it's over to you to go and enjoy!



King's Head
Ashford

Why here?

The King's Head exudes period charm while offering modern facilities, good food, good service and good value. There is also a large garden and inside there is pool for entertainment, with a good selection of cask ales on offer.

On the menu...

The restaurant, the deserving winner of 'pub food of the year' 2009, serves excellent contemporary gastro-pub style food, with the menu incorporating the pub's own home-grown vegetables, salads and herbs.

How to book...

Woodchurch Road,
Shadoxhurst, TN26 1LQ
Phone: 01233 732243





Surin Restaurant
Ramsgate

Why here?

The Surin Restaurant is a two minute walk from Ramsgate Harbour. Surin offers a Kent beer to complement Thai food, a blonde and dark Surin beer from local mircrobreweries, containing pure, local ingredients.

On the menu...

The restaurant specialises in three exotic Asian cuisines - Thai, Cambodian and Lao. The owner, Miss Damrong, has worked in gourmet restaurants in London for many years and also cooked for the Thai royal family.

How to book...

30 Harbour Street, Ramsgate,
CT11 8HA.
Phone: 01843 592001



The Black Horse
Monks Horton

Why here?

The Black Horse is located in the picturesque hamlet of Monks Horton.
The surrounding area is mainly agricultural and affords incredible views of the Garden of England.
It has an extensive garden to the rear, with a children's play area. Inside the country theme continues with exposed brick floor in the bar area, exposed beams throughout and open fireplaces.

On the menu...

The Black Horse is a traditional oak-beamed country pub and Italian restaurant.
The Black Horse offer personalised catering for all events, as well as a Sunday lunchtime roast carved especially for you.

How to book...

Fiddling Lane, Monks Horton,
Ashford, TN25 6AP.
Phone: 01303 812182

Crown Freehouse
Rochester

Why here?

Enjoy a pint and soak up the atmosphere in the historic Crown Freehouse, situated at the heart of Rochester.
Crown Freehouse serves fine wines and spirits, as well as a selection of imported lagers and real ales.

On the menu...

Crown Freehouse serves bar food seven-days-a-week at lunchtimes and evenings from midday to 3pm and 6pm to 10pm.
A traditional Sunday lunch is served from midday to 6pm. One course is £9.95.

How to book...

2 High Street, Rochester,
ME1 1PT.
Phone: 01634 814874





Hooden on the Hill
Willesborough

Why here?

Howard and Victoria offer a warm welcome to their traditional English country pub.
Originally built in 1649 as a coaching inn, they have both taken great pride in maintaining the original character and warm atmosphere of the Hooden on the Hill.
If you buy anything from their lunchtime menu they will stamp a loyalty card. Once it is full you will be entitled to a free lunch.

On the menu...

Every Monday to Wednesday from midday to 3pm and 6pm to 9.30pm you can get two Mexican meals for the price of one. Fridays from 6pm to 9.30pm you can get a curry, rice and naan with poppadoms and drink for £10.

How to book...

Silverhill Road, Willesborough, Ashford, TN24 ONY.
Phone: 01233 662226



The Marquis
Alkham

Why here?

A strikingly contemporary restaurant with rooms set in an idyllic Kentish village in the undulating hills of Alkham. It is overlooked by St Anthony's Church, which dates back to the 12th century.

On the menu...

The restaurant is a revelation. Head Chef Andrew 'Drew' King provides seasonally inspired and locally sourced menus which are as fresh as they are imaginative, and the elegant 21st century styling is exceptional.

How to book...

Alkham Valley Road, Alkham,
CT15 7DF.
Phone: 01304 873410

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

It's not all bad at our hospitals

WITH all the news about people complaining about both the staff and facilities at such hospitals as the Kent and Canterbury, I find it an utter disgrace that only bad things are heard of.

I am not saying things still don't need to improve and some of the moans do not warrant complaining about, but I have to say I cannot praise the staff enough, as I found out on June 13 during a stay.

The staff were fantastic, friendly, they acted in a professional and caring manner, I also found the areas I went to were spotlessly clean.

Instead of posting articles complaining all the time, may I suggest we should all praise the nursing staff, for without these dedicated people, we would not have a NHS.

Could you do their job? I know I could not, so I ask that all this non productive media to stop, it is not helping and pushes the staff's moral down.

I would also say the nursing staff more than earn their wages and if I had my way I would lower the senior administration wages down by 25 per cent and increase the nursing staff wages by a minimum of the same.

Peter Stenings,
via email

Europe has kept us all at peace

THIS week's 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo is a reminder of how far we have come.

At Waterloo, 65,000 men were killed or wounded in one day. In contrast, we have now had 70 years without war in Europe. Long may peace continue.

We enjoy secure peace partly because every country in Europe now has an elected government. There are no more monarchs or dictators seeking out war for vanity or power.

Most importantly, we have the European Parliament where modern opportunities and problems, which cross old national borders, can be discussed by those we elect rather than fought over.

The EU is imperfect and so is the UK.

But I would rather have both and strive to make them better than return to division and war.

Antony Hook,
via email

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Sailing on the good old days of ferries

I HAVE just read your article in KoS last weekend with regard the glory days of duty free on board our cross-Channel ferries.

First of all, I think it is a sad day that the company MyFerryLink is finishing.

When I first started with British Rail back in June 1965, they were good times and the then Sealink company were brilliant members of staff and would give you the top brick off of the chimney, as the saying goes.

I used to work on the ferry St Anselm as a catering officer between 1980 until 1991, before sadly being made redundant, mainly due to the closure of the Folkestone to Boulogne ferry service.

Some 2,400 people lost their jobs as a result. Due to another Tory government may I say.

We all came through the duty free era and eventually it was called concessionary sales to passengers.

The pictures of the Fantasia and the SNCF Champs Elysees you pictured in the article by Chris Murphy reminded me of those good days.

The Fantasia [sister ship of the similar sized Fiesta] came into service more or less towards the end of the Sealink days when we were sold off to the Swedish company Stena and the whole ball game changed.

I could go on and on but sadly it would take all day. Unfortunately, the good times have gone and will never come back. People can now travel into Belgium and get their duty frees much cheaper.

LV Kerry
via email

Now in its third month of debate

RAY Duff (KoS, letters, last week) seems determined to continue a hostile attitude towards the Bible.

Like previous correspondent Phil Granger, I cannot understand the reason why? Perhaps Mr Duff will enlighten us with a few more details about himself, then readers can form their own opinion more easily.

Christianity is not forceful, and having been around for several thousand years, not several hundred, it has stood the test of time. I am not prepared to stand by and let Mr Duff belittle it.

Maybe he should consider a change of direction and openly criticise another religion. Depending on his chosen victim, an unpleasant result might ensure, so he needs to tread carefully.

Ray Duff's previous letters have been very provocative, but gentle Christianity has refused to accept the bait.

Mary McNulty,
Brenchley

List the unspoilt tarmac runway

THEY should make Manston Airport a listed building.

After all, it has one of the only pieces of intact tarmac in Kent.

Ron Candenhead,
Challock

Big question of life after death

EXTENSIVE media coverage has been given to the Berkeley balcony disaster in the US.

Almost every dimension has been exhaustively documented: personal profiles of the young people involved, the heartbreak of their families, the outpouring of sorrow and condolences, engineering analysis of the balcony failure and so on.

No coverage has been given however to the one matter that is incomparably greater that all the others, namely what happened to the six young people after their death?

Did nothing happen - did death bring with it an absolute end of consciousness? Or else did something happen and the souls/consciousness of the young people move into the transcendent mystery of God? All the great world religions predict the latter and some sort of moral judgment where we give an account of our lives to God.

The good news that inspires Christian meaning and hope is expressed by Jesus at the raising of Lazarus: "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me even though he die, yet shall he live; and he who lives and believes in me shall never die." John 11:25-26.

Fr Morty O'Shea,
Hythe

Don't let rights act slip away

IN this year of the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, we risk losing those same rights on which the European Convention on Human Rights are based. Even more important than that, it forms the basis of rights derived by modern democracies throughout the world.

I hope that we, in Britain, do not remove the ancient right to sue for trespass against our lands, including the ground, when considering laws that will allow the exploration for fossil fuels.

Marguerita Morton,
Tunbridge Wells

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

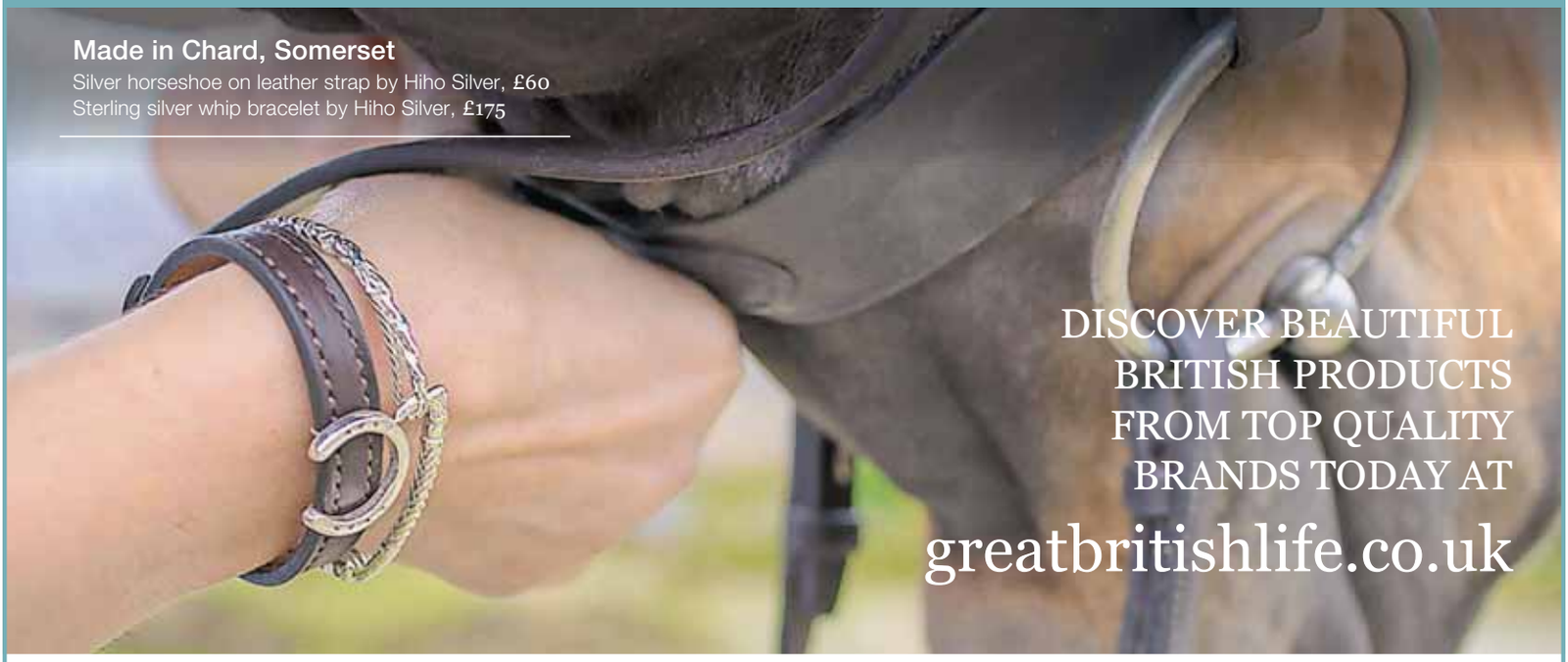
images of kent



Hever Castle Gardens

by **Eric Rush, from Bromley**

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Women Seeking

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FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box No: 418117**

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

GILLY, voluptuous well groomed lady, seeks man to massage and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 515 4293 Box No: 412933**

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383**

ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broadminded man of any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4294 Box No: 412369**

GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box No: 366019**

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127**

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874**

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTM professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517**

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497**

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515**

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215**

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211**

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171**

JACKIE 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297**

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233**

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195**

TERESA 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081**

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079**

PETITE blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077**

SARAH 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841**

ANGIE attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLTM honest, fun male for possible ltr. looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827**

LISA attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549**

SUE 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLTM kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735**

BLONDE female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675**

INTELLIGENT funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right paces, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509**

FEMALE seeking male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809**

BLACK lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477**

JENNY voluptuous blonde tanned well-presented female, enjoys being and giving pampering, cooking, cosy nights, looking for some broadminded excitement. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415399**

JOYCE 39, attractive GSOH, loves nights out, honest, loyal, fun to be with, looking for mature male for adult companionship, meals out and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415561**

NICOLETTE 32 petite professional attractive black female looking for similar hardworking white male who like me loves life and is serious about finding a LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415545**

PAT blonde blue eyed curvy, cuddly female, attractive, likes swimming, gardening, holidays, my job/home, looking for happiness with quiet content grounded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415533**

MANDY 35, petite attractive slim female with very GSOH, likes to keep fit, meals in/out, WLTM genuine child friendly guy/dad for fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415513**

JACKIE very pretty leggy well-mannered/educated 28yr old female, loves nights in/out, sports, WLTM sincere male up to 35yrs for friendship, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415377**

DONNA 36yrs un-modest but very attractive, nice eyes, good figure, GSOH, OHAC, great job, sick of never meeting Mr Right, looking for someone special. Genuine male please. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415187**

ALISON 27yr old very bored broadminded female with plenty of free time on her hands looking for some adult fun times. Call me, I won't disappoint. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415177**

DEE lonely divorced female, slim, bubbly, attractive redhead, loves cuddles, looking for a man who can restore my faith in love and make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414961**

Men Seeking

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COME dine with me. Attractive black British male 50 yrs, 6ft, medium building, working, GSOH, romantic and genuine WLTM similar female. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4763687**

PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421**

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077**

MALE widower, N/S, seeks buxom lady, 50-70, likes reading, 60's music, pub quizzes and crosswords. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417905**

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195**

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985**

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

MALE 71, Tidy, OHAC WLTM Lady late 60s early70s for easy friendship. Likes animals. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4757205**

YOUNG 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417909**

GOOD looking fit male, romantic kind and passionate, with lots of love to give WLTM a mature lady 55 to 65 for ltr. **Text only to Mailbox No:. 4760779**

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691**

ROAD worker looking for fun times and hopefully more. Great sense of humour. Laughs a lot. Looking for the same in lady. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4753610**

ROCKABILLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750**

MALE 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212**

ANDY 5ft 5ins, retired, 69, solvent, likes most things, meals out, holidays, golf, swimming, GSOH, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417821**

67YR old male, slim, 5ft 5ins, many interests, likes holidays, meals out, seeking slim female 55-65 with GSOH to share TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414023**

GENUINE fun sexy healthy guy 55, with no ties, looking to date attractive lady 45/57 for fun times and more. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4717147**



BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wining, dining and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787**

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397**

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789**

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719**

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175**

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929**

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015**

HAPPY go lucky guy 62, GSOH, seeks fun loving lady, 48-65 for coastal walks, lunches and fun days out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417707**

BRIAN 71, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, music, walks, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417697**

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691**

ROCKABILLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750**

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611**

JACK 47, tall, good-looking, average build, GSOH, seeks broadminded female for discreet no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416867**

MIKE Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275**

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611**

CARING man enjoys going out, looking for someone to take out and have a laugh and to share some nights in! **Text only to Mailbox No: 4736191**

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725**

E D , retired Essex guy, astute & wise. N/S. no ties, with looks & humour seeks younger female needing life's mentor/tutor. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4485189**

DOVER male 54 seeks female for friendship, conversation and maybe more. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4682630**

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421**

KIND, tall, medium build, smart, easy going widower, 71 WLM Lady 60s early 70s, for easy going friendship OHAC. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4641218**

MALE, attractive, kind, loyal, gentle, no ties, looking for kind, gentle, small lady for friendship and LTR. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4711124**

STU 52, looking for a sincere women to share the long winter nights with. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4609904**



KEEN cyclist 58, non competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337**

FEMALE pillion passenger sought for motor cycle rides / adventures and anything else good/bad. Any age/status, 59yr old male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416827**

LOCAL Sevenoaks man, seeks local lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127**

GRAHAM tall, semi retired, Piscean, likes sailing, seeks female, any nationality. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415463**

M A L E 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923**

PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421**

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015**

BARRY divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717**

MALE blond hair, blue eyes, seeking female with GSOH, 45-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416445**

Gay Seeking

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GAY male 54 years old, seeks gay male 40 to 42 years old for 121 long lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4732986**

BI male, slim, passive, seeks older bi M, 75- 90, for gentle fun and friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4398888**

MAIDSTONE bi male, clean-shaven, N/S, seeks similar bi male, N/S for meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416737**

PASSIVE male, 60, overweight seeks assertive male for daytime fun, cannot accommodate. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4321273**

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



MOTORING GODDESS: One of the original DS series models (below) and the new DS-badged DS5 (above) and (inset) its sumptuous interior

'Goddess' flies to greater heights

FIRST DRIVE: Citroën and DS part in harmony – one to carry on with distinctive mainstream cars, the other to champion premium ones...

LAUNCHING the DS5 on July 1 marks Citroën and DS parting, to become separate brands after 60 years together.

Citroën launched the original DS at the 1955 Paris motor show; the big saloon's sleek aeronautically inspired lines and advanced hydro-pneumatic self-levelling suspension earned 12,000 orders on the show's first day alone.

It helped that this elegant new car's designation was a neat pun – 'de esse' also means goddess in French.

Reborn in 2010 the goddess badge now lives on alone, firstly in the form of the DS5, which launched originally as the Citroën DS5.

Like its 60-year-old ancestor, it was stylish inside and out, but while Citroën had avoided trying to ape the looks of Teutonic rivals – a pitfall it leapt into with the slow-selling C5 – it still tried to match them for handling, resulting in a harsh and unforgiving ride.

It's now clear that in re-working the DS5 for its DS-only badged debut, chassis and ride have received most attention; there are still the occasional clunks over rough surfaces, but a huge amount of comfort has been engineered back without significantly affecting handling.

The array of diesel engines also contribute to the new serenity: the 120PS (119bhp) 1.6-litre sounds a little hurried at times and DS expects the 150PS (148bhp) to be the best seller – it's a beauty - with a diesel hybrid flagship chipping into volumes later on.



The interior is sumptuous; the nascent brand is particularly proud of the intuitive touch-screen and leather seat options, notably one with a design resembling metal watch strap links.

The array of the controls also makes you feel like you are piloting a futuristic aircraft instead of a car so, rather than trying to copy the Germans now, it seems clear DS is intent on taking premium motoring to greater heights.

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Forester: Appeal of the original 'crossover'

Subaru's crossover cum SUV delivers impressive off-road ability and durability married to everyday practicality and down to earth style, writes **Steve Loader...**

Subaru Forester 2.0D XC Premium

Price:	from £28,995
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Best rival:	VW Tiguan

SUBARU could say it created a crossover ten years ahead of the ground-breaking Nissan Qashqai, by launching the original Forester here in 1997.

While the newcomer stuck rigidly to Subaru principles – horizontally-opposed engine and all-wheel drive – it was more high-riding estate car than serious off-roader.

For some buyers though, this was a big plus since the Forester's low slung engine and consequent lower centre of gravity made it less prone to heeling on bends. It was also an impressive 4x4 holdall for those wanting practicality and extra grip.

That it didn't storm the market like the Qashqai was more due to Subaru failing to offer a diesel option.

But the latest Forester (from £24,995) does have one; a punchy, economical flat-four produced in-house by Subaru at no little cost.

This 2.0-litre 148PS (147bhp) unit was tweaked for the 2015 model year to boost refinement and economy, returning 46.3mpg on the combined cycle, though CO2 emissions are only so-so at 148 and 158g/km, incurring £140 and £175 road tax a year respectively, depending on model.



It delights though, with its own smooth and distinctive soundtrack and while Subaru also offers a 2.0-litre petrol engine (from £25,495) of similar power, performance and price, its 10mpg economy penalty hardly makes a strong alternative case.

Now into its fourth generation, the Forester is still practical yet sharper looking than before.

As ever with Subaru there is also the feeling that much thought has gone into engineering and arrangement – it is the most German of Japanese brands.





So the driving position is excellent, with a lofty view out, aided by lots of glass and little intrusion from the pillars, while boot space is above average for the sector.

Interior design remains typically Subaru – weighted towards durability and ergonomics rather than flair.

But that fits Forester tradition; the strait-laced estate body may have been ditched for a contemporary off-roader/crossover look, but you still expect this car to deliver genuinely rugged performance when needed.

There is also decent ground clearance and it may be that the Forester has sacrificed some on-road sharpness to better cope with rougher conditions.

Of course, it hugs the bends well enough, but light steering and pliant suspension to cope with bumpy surfaces and easy manoeuvring in tight situations mean it can't be a poor man's Range Rover Sport.

But rural buyers would rather that than the less rugged appeal of the Qashqai and crossover wannabes, or 'soft-roaders' like the Toyota RAV4.

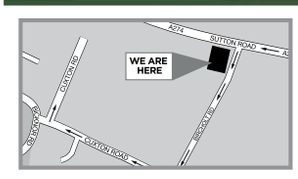
The Subaru's pitch is also backed by a five-year/100,000-mile warranty.



Representative example

Cash price	£24,995.00
Customer Deposit	£4,881.00
Subaru Deposit Contribution	£1,000.00
Total Deposit	£5,881.00
Total Amount of Credit	£19,114.00
Purchase Fee (included in payments)	£10.00
48 Monthly Payments	£299.00
Final Payment	£8,605.00
Total Amount Payable (by customer)	£27,838.00
Duration of Agreement	49 Months
Representative APR	6.9% APR

Representative example relates to a Forester 2.0D X. Vehicle shown is a Forester 2.0D X with optional special paint finish OTR price of £25,495.



Maidstone Subaru
Sutton Road, Parkwood, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9FB
Telephone: 08433 933 625
www.maidstonesubaru.co.uk
Mon-Fri 9am - 6pm | Sat 9am - 5pm | Sun 10am - 4pm

SUBARU Confidence in Motion

FG Barnes & Sons Limited, trading as Maidstone Subaru is a credit broker and not a lender.

MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Official fuel consumption figures for the Forester range in mpg (l/100km): Urban from 25.2 (11.20) - 39.8 (7.10). Extra Urban from 40.4 (7.00) - 57.6 (4.90). Combined from 33.2 (8.50) - 49.6 (5.70). CO2 emissions 148 - 197 (g/km).

Finance available subject to status to persons aged 18 and over. The final payment is payable one month after the final monthly payment. Representative Example based upon total contract of 40,000 miles. Excludes motability, fleet and BASC Members Affinity Scheme sales. Available at participating dealers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Finance offer is only available through Subaru Finance. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to Subaru Finance. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Offer ends 30.06.15. Prices correct at time of going to publication. Subaru Finance is a trading style of International Motors Finance Limited, registered office at Charterhall House, Charterhall Drive, Chester, Cheshire, CH88 3AN. †Every vehicle marketed by Subaru (UK) Ltd, excluding WRX STI, is covered by a 5 Year/100,000 mile (whichever comes sooner) Limited Warranty which comprises of a standard 3 Year / 60,000 mile (whichever is sooner) Manufacturer's Warranty (bumper to bumper, excluding clutch driven plate) and an Extended Warranty (applies to powertrain only) provided by the importer. Price shown is for the Forester 2.0D X, manufacturer's OTR price £24,995.00. OTR includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee. Vehicle shown is a Forester 2.0i XE Premium with optional special paint finish OTR price of £27,995. Without special paint finish £27,495.00. X-Mode is only available in Forester Lineartronic models.

Main Dealer SERVICING

Look after your motor

By Steve



CAR buyers think long and hard about new car choice, only to forget that it's vital that the vehicle is serviced and repaired promptly and competently.

The traditional guarantee used to be a full main dealer service history (FMDSH) a reassuring record that everything required for the manufacturer's warranty had been carried out.

But 2002 EU legislation decreed this was a restrictive practice, and made it illegal for manufacturers to insist that only franchised networks could maintain the warranty.

Manufacturers also had to make vehicle diagnostics – crucial with increasingly sophisticated vehicles – specialist tools and updates available to independent garages and servicing centres.

Nevertheless, market sentiment still places a premium on a FMDSH; used car buyers will usually pay more for a car with this 'ticket' – especially on premium models.

One could argue that this perceived premium is wiped out by higher main dealer service costs, but this over-simplifies the picture; with car sales and profits squeezed during the recession, dealers became more competitive on servicing, customer service and ancillaries like tyres, exhausts and air con top-ups – normally the preserve of quick-fit centres.

They also bank on the perception that only a main dealer's technicians can know their brand's cars as well as they do, while 'all makes' centres must spread expertise across many makes and models.

And dealers know that happy service customers keep coming back, each time seeing newer models only yards from the service desk – they may buy again.





TAKE CARE: the Toyota Prius (left) and Skoda Yeti both come with comprehensive warranties, but you need to keep the car properly serviced

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Dealers hitting back at the 'quick fit' trend



DEALS ON WHEELS: check whether your main dealer can offer a competitive price and one-stop shop if you damage tyres or an exhaust on your new Honda Civic (above), Mazda3 (below) or Renault Captur (inset)

IT'S tempting to try to save on motoring bills by using local 'quick/fast-fit' centres.

These have thrived as drivers try to save on motoring 'consumables': exhausts, tyres, batteries, clutches, shock absorbers, air conditioning checks and routine services, plus the good old annual MOT.

But main dealers have responded, reckoning that if car owners are still using their service bays, they'll consider realistic deals on tyres and exhausts, for instance, to ensure a time-saving one-stop shop purchase.

Using the main dealer also guarantees that only genuine manufacturers' parts are used, bringing the confidence of additional quality and reliability.



And that same guarantee, plus realistic pricing has encouraged bodyshop repairs either by the franchise or one with its seal of approval.

Main dealers have also borrowed from quick-fit rivals, by offering menu pricing; a customer can decide what he wants, and knows in advance what it will cost.

Some dealers even allow you to spread the cost via a finance/servicing plan covering several years.



They may also offer a loyalty scheme to retain owners of older models, rather than see them defect to the non-franchised sector, because those owners believe that their car's lower value does not warrant the higher perceived cost of main dealer servicing.

Another trick borrowed from the quick-fit sector is longer opening hours; dealers now realise many customers want to drop off their car early on their way to work and then pick it up at the end of the day – a courtesy car may even be offered.

Centralised bookings can often be made too, so that customers living midway between franchised dealers within the same group can pick the most convenient service slots available.

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Avensis, Avensis Verso, Verso, Picnic, Previa	£189	£259	£369
Yaris Hybrid, Prius 1.5l*	£179	£229	£289
Auris Hybrid, Prius 1.8l, Prius+, Prius Plug-in*	£189	£239	£299
MR2, Celica	£159	£229	£299
RAV4	£169	£259	£319
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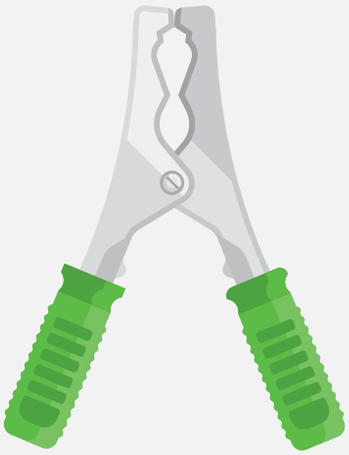
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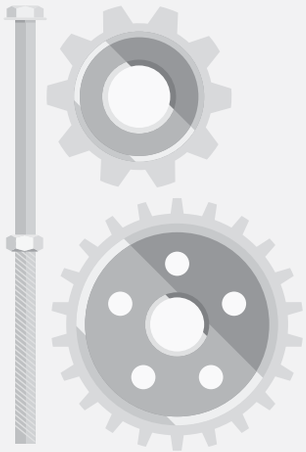
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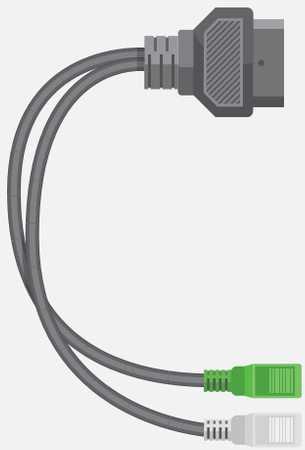
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Home care for your car

MODERN cars may be more reliable than ever before, but there's less that the DIY mechanic can do.

So, keeping the car reliable and safe is now best left to professionals and, of course, it costs.

Unfortunately, this also means that owners often ignore problems for too long and servicing is stretched beyond recommended parameters, risking the car's warranty and provenance when you come to sell. So:

- Get it serviced at the correct mileages or annually and have the servicing book stamped up, although motor brands are switching to centralised digital records.
- Check the warranty – beware possible pitfalls that could endanger the guarantee.
- Act on recalls from the manufacturer for checks or replacements – it will help maintain the car's warranty and future saleability.
- Don't rely on the MOT certificate to assure the car's safety and reliability. Problems can arise at any time, so have them checked immediately.
- Check lights and tyres regularly for safety and legality. The latter must be at the correct pressures listed in the handbook or a sticker often placed on the driver's door frame. Legal tread depth is 1.6mm, but most motoring authorities advise replacement at 2mm, especially in winter.
- Keep oil, washer, coolant, power steering, clutch and brake fluid levels topped up without over-filling, and make those checks on level ground. Don't wait for warning lights – it could be too late to prevent damage, or may compromise safety. Don't be caught out.
- There is little point in keeping the washer topped up if wiper blades are worn or split. And if the windscreen is covered with bugs and grease, don't expect the washer and wipers to do the job for you – use a spray and elbow grease.
- Shop around for servicing. Even if you are committed to main dealer servicing, you don't have to use the one where you bought the car – some are better on pricing and customer service than others.





KEEP A CHECK: modern motors like the Alfa Romeo Giulietta (inset), Skoda Fabia (below) and Toyota Yaris (above) need professional care, but there's no need to be careless yourself



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by Air • 22 October, 2015

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Champagne Check-in

Paris and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

by Rail - afternoon departure - 2 October, 2015

4 days, £**439**pp • Quote: PR10-2-KOS

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by Air – 27 January, 2016

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INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return flights with luggage from Gatwick or Heathrow - supplement may apply • 1 night B&B in Venice Mestre at a 3-star hotel • 4 nights half-board in Opatija at a 4-star hotel • Excursions • Transfers abroad



Champagne Check-in

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Swale Academies Trust

Westlands School

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Post 1: A post has become available to support pupils, who have a range of learning needs, both in our intervention unit and in mainstream classes. Experience in early-years reading skills, literacy and phonics would be an advantage.

Post 2: To support pupils who have various difficulties in mainstream classes, a particular interest in the areas of mathematics, science or humanities would be an advantage.

Applicants should have the necessary skills to support in mainstream classes, in small groups or on an individual basis. Candidates would be expected to have good literacy and numeracy skills, and, as part of the interview, may be asked to demonstrate their skills in supporting pupils.

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.westlands.org.uk). Please note that we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Applicants should include a letter of application detailing how they meet the requirements of the person specification.

Closing date: Wednesday 1 July 2015 at noon.

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Contact Details

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA
Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA

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Bradstow School

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HOUSEKEEPING SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

To ensure the delivery of an effective and efficient catering, cleaning and laundry provision to the school. This includes managing the operational day to day functions of the Catering & Housekeeping Support Staff and cooking of nutritional and healthy meals.

£20,147 - £23,308 - 37 hours per week, 9.00 am - 5.00 pm to be worked 4 days Mon - Fri, plus Sat - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

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To provide healthy meals for pupils and staff

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To undertake general cleaning duties and maintain an acceptable standard of cleanliness and hygiene at Bradstow

£4,742 - £4,841 per annum - 15 hours per week, 4.00 pm - 7.00 pm Mon-Fri, - Term time only, plus two weeks*

The closing date for all Housekeeping Team applications is midnight Thursday 9th July 2015

HOUSEPARENT - EXTENDED PROVISION

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To be responsible for the supervision and care of the children and young people at night.

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***For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.**

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email **personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk**. Or you may call **01843 608727** (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

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Salary: £16,487.75 per annum

Experience and Qualifications

- Maths and English GCSE A*-C or equivalent
- 2 years' experience working within an Administrative environment
- Excellent Customer Service skills
- Experience in the health sector desirable

Interviews for this role will be held on July 15th

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Danielle Edwards, Business Office Supervisor, on 01304 2459556

For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Justine Whittle, HR Assistant

Telephone: 01304 245943

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR KENT

AND

CHIEF CONSTABLE OF KENT

Audit of Accounts: Year Ended 31 March 2015

Public Inspection of Accounts and Right of Challenge

Audit Commission Act 1998, sections 15-16

(as saved transitionally for the purposes of the 2014/15 audit of accounts)

Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 sections 9, 10, 21, 22 & 24

The accounts for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent and the Chief Constable of Kent are subject to external audit by Miss D. Hanson, Ernst & Young LLP, 400 Capability Green, Luton, LU1 3LU (Telephone 01582 643008). Members of the public and local government electors have certain rights in the audit process:

1. From Monday 13th July to Friday 7th August (inclusive) between 10am and 4pm (Monday to Friday) any person interested may inspect and make copies of the draft accounts of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent and the Chief Constable of Kent for the year ended 31 March 2015 and certain related documents (comprising books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts). The accounts and other documents will be available for inspection at the offices at which they are normally kept. Any alternative arrangement would need to be agreed in advance. Application should be made initially to Mr P. Curtis, Chief Finance Officer to the Chief Constable, Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 9BZ, Tel: 01622 652761.
2. From 10am on 10th August until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of Kent, or his/her representative, may ask the auditor questions about the accounts. Please contact the auditor, Miss D Hanson, at the address given above to make arrangements to ask any questions.
3. Questions may be received by Mr S. Nolan, Chief Finance Officer of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent, Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BZ, (Telephone 01622 677055) or Mr P. Curtis, Chief Finance Officer of the Chief Constable, Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 9BZ, (Tel: 01622 652761) by prior arrangement with the auditor, Miss D. Hanson, at the address given above to whom requests for this purpose should be addressed.
4. From 10am on 10th August until the conclusion of the audit process, a local government elector for the area of Kent, or his/her representative, may object to the accounts asking that the auditor issue a report in the public interest (under section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998) and/or apply to the court for a declaration that an item in the accounts is contrary to law (under section 17 of the Audit Commission Act 1998). Written notice of a proposed objection and the grounds on which it is made must be sent to the auditor, Miss D. Hanson, at the address given above and copied to Mr S. Nolan and Mr P. Curtis at the addresses given above.
5. No objection may be made unless the auditor, Miss D. Hanson, at the address given above has previously received notice in writing of the proposed objection and its grounds. Copies of this notice must be sent to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent care of Mr S Nolan and Chief Constable of Kent care of Mr P. Curtis at the addresses given above.

Dated: 12th June 2015

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent
Kent Police Headquarters,
Sutton Road,
Maidstone, Kent.
ME15 9BZ

Mr Sean Nolan
Chief Finance Officer of the
Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent Police
Telephone 01622 677055

Kent Police
Headquarters,
Sutton Road,
Maidstone, Kent.
ME15 9BZ

Mr Paul Curtis
Chief Finance Officer of the
Chief Constable of Kent
Telephone 01622 652761

Instructions to News Agency

Please arrange for the above Public Notice to be advertised in all editions of the following newspapers for the week commencing 30th June and for a voucher copy of the newspapers containing the advertisement to be sent to Mr S. Nolan, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent, Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 9BZ or Mr P. Curtis, Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 9BZ.

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003: Application for Premises Licence

Take notice that The Glitter Emporium Ltd has made an application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 for a premises licence for 10 Laurel Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1NT.

The application is to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises from 0900hrs to 2100hrs Monday to Sunday.

This application has been made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR. Full details of the application and plans can be viewed at Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR during normal hours of business.

Any interested party who wishes to make a representation about this application should do so in writing to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR or by sending an email to licensing@medway.gov.uk. no later than 25 July 2015.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application which, upon conviction, carries a maximum fine of £5,000.

LICENSING ACT 2003: Application for Premises Licence

Take notice that Stanny's Smokehouse BBQ Ltd has made an application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 for a premises licence for Stanny's Smokehouse BBQ Ltd, 6c High Street, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1BB.

The application is to apply for the following licensable activities: Sale of Alcohol; Regulated Entertainment; and, Late Night Refreshment.

This application has been made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR. Full details of the application and plans can be viewed at Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR during normal hours of business.

Any interested party who wishes to make a representation about this application should do so in writing to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR or by sending an email to licensing@medway.gov.uk. no later than Friday 24th July 2015.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application which, upon conviction, carries a maximum fine of £5,000.

LICENSING ACT 2003 Application for a New Premises Licence

Name of Applicant: Hardy Aziz Kerim

Premises: Hardy's Market Faversham

Proposed Licensable activities: Off Sales of alcohol – Monday – Sunday 06:30 until 00:00. Opening Hours – Monday to Sunday 06:30 until 00 :00

Date of Notice : 19th June 2015

Any objections to this application must be made In writing to The Licensing Department, Swale Borough Council Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT

Objections must be received within 28 days of the date of this notice.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable, on summary conviction, to a maximum fine of £5,000

Please mention this paper when replying to SMALL ADS







DUO: Steve Smith and Michael Clarke rack up the runs



CROWDS: Good weather swelled the crowds for four-day game

Sun and Aussies shine in Ashes series warm-up

Thousands headed to the St Lawrence this week for a first glimpse at the tourists

Cricket

Pictures by Ady Kerry

editorial@archant.co.uk

THERE has been precious little to delight in this season for the Kent faithful, so it was perhaps a little ironic that it was the arrival of Australia that generated a positive buzz around the blend of old and new surroundings of the St Lawrence this week.

Currently sat bottom of the Division Two table in the County Championship, any hope of a season chasing down promotion would appear to already be over.

Yet the arrival of Australia and the sizeable crowds which flocked to Kent's headquarters may yet prove to be the springboard the club needed to remind people of the joys of a day at the cricket.

Not that many will be quite as star-studded. Australia, in their first match on English soil since jetting in to prepare for the Ashes, were clearly keen to ensure their big names bedded in. The crowd-pleasing line-up saw skipper Michael Clarke lead out a team which includes the likes of Mitchell Johnson, Shane Watson, Peter Siddle and Brad Haddin.

Kent's form, thus far, has been underwhelming and few expected that to change against a team determined to humiliate England on home soil during this summer's Ashes series.

And so it proved as Australia's batsmen dug in, reaching 477-6 by lunch on day two.

Centuries from Shaun Marsh (114) and Steven Smith (111) led the charge, leaving Kent toiling in the field on a humid and warm opening to the four-day game.

Even the bizarre sight of a pitch invader running on and setting up a pop-up tent on the outfield could not shake the Aussies' resolve as they piled on the runs.

The match continues this weekend and is due to conclude on Sunday. The Ashes start on July 8.



Sport Shorts



WIN: Byrne roared to two wins at Snetterton last weekend

Shakey sits in BSB pole

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne will be eyeing another major points haul at Knockhill next weekend after back-to-back wins at Snetterton in the latest rounds of the British Superbike Championship.

The BSB circus heads to the Scottish circuit with the Sittingbourne racer buzzing from two majestic wins on his PBM Kawasaki ZX-10R as he looks to chase down a remarkable fifth title.

He now holds a 17 point advantage over nearest rival Josh Brookes whom he beat into second place in both races. Byrne said: "The weekend could have been worse couldn't it? I was able to get into a good rhythm straight away."

The following BSB meeting over the weekend of July 18-19 will be back on Byrne's home turf of Brands Hatch at West Kingsdown.

Martin off to Millwall

GILLINGHAM left back Joe Martin has signed for League One Millwall after being released from Priestfield at the end of last season.

And he admitted he had first turned down an approach to head to the New Den two years ago - deciding instead to stay at the Gills.

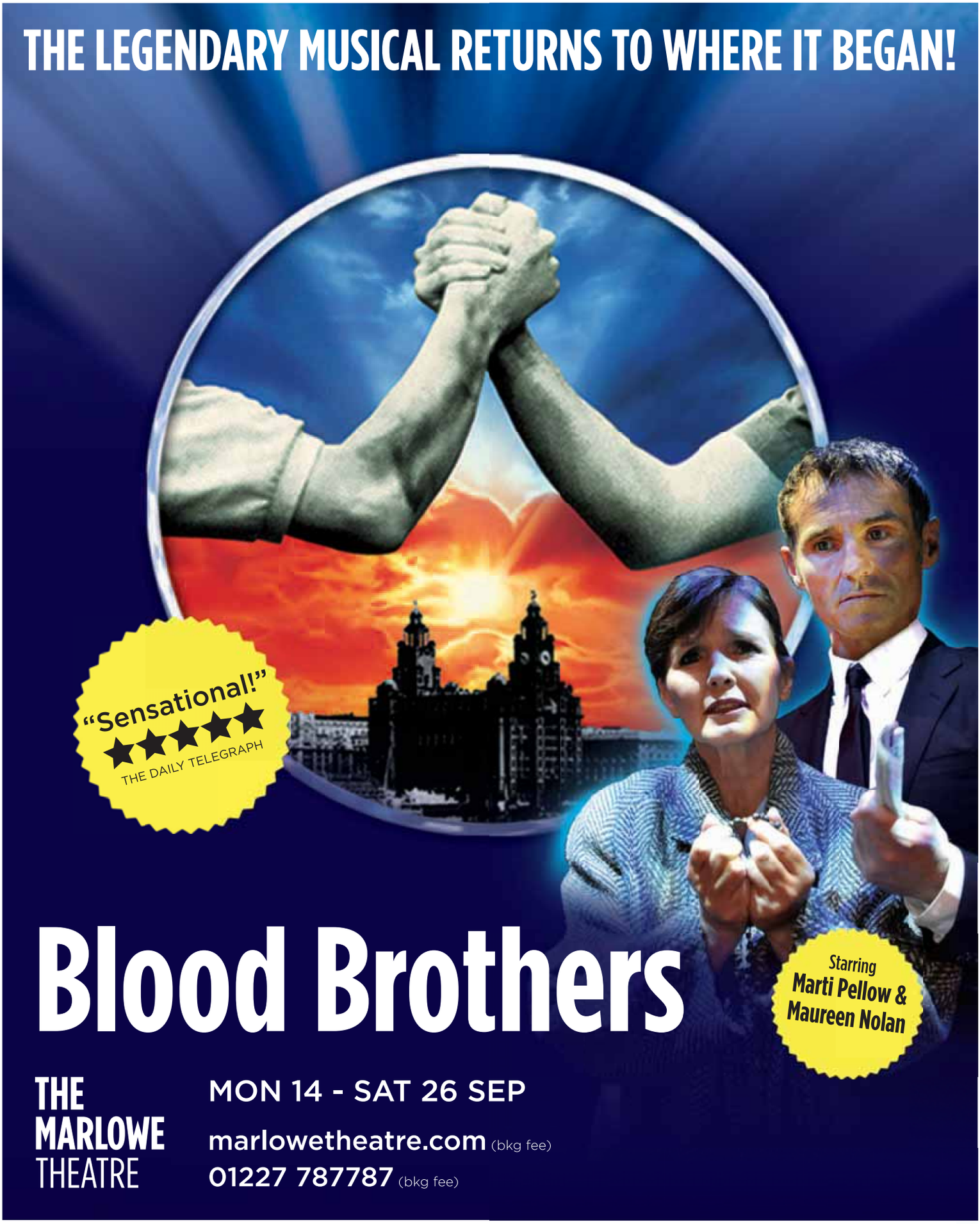
He said: "I was tempted then. But Gillingham had just been promoted and I ended up staying there. This time, however, when I heard that the opportunity might be there for me again I was really excited and there was no way I was going miss it this time."

During a four-and-a-half year spell with the Gills, he made 179 appearances, scoring eight goals.

Earlier in the week, Gills boss Justin Edinburgh had confirmed a new addition to the squad ahead of the upcoming campaign after overseeing the signing of Port Vale striker Ben Williamson. He joined the Gills after rejecting a new deal at his former club.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:
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